



Daily Report

East Asia

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Further on Events at APEC Meeting in Bali

Takemura, Rubin Meet on Currency

OW1604050195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT
16 Apr 95

[By Tim Johnson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bali, Indonesia, April 16 KYODO—Japan and the United States held ministerial talks Sunday [16 April] on the yen's massive appreciation against the dollar but failed to achieve any agreement on concrete measures to restore stability to world money markets.

The one-hour meeting between Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin yielded only shared expressions of concern that recent exchange rate movements "do not reflect the economic fundamentals," according to Japanese and U.S. officials.

"We all agreed that more stable exchange rates were in the interest of the world," Rubin told reporters after the talks with Takemura on the Indonesian resort island of Bali just ahead of a finance ministers' gathering of the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Takemura, meanwhile, said that he and Rubin had further shared the opinion that Japan and the U.S. should "cooperate" to that end. He said mutual concern was expressed over the adverse impact that major changes in exchange rates can have on developing countries in the region as well as in the world.

Officials said the two monetary chiefs pledged to "consult closely" on matters relating to exchange rate fluctuations, while "cooperating as appropriate."

Takemura is believed to have called in the talks for coordinated Japan-U.S. intervention in the foreign exchange market and for stepped-up unilateral efforts on the part of the U.S. to defend the dollar. But officials would not say whether Takemura specifically called on the U.S. to raise interest rates or devote more resources to reducing the federal budget deficit as means of helping to curb the dollar's decline.

"We are continuing to work for more deficit reduction," Rubin told reporters.

The perceived reluctance of the U.S. to act resolutely on the matter has drawn criticism from Japanese officials, including Takemura himself.

The high yen, which has risen more than 17 percent since the start of the year, has been driving up the costs of Japanese exports and threatening the country's fragile economic recovery.

Officials said each side gave the other detailed explanations about measures taken so far to restore stability to their respective currencies.

But the officials indicated that Rubin failed to give Washington's stamp of approval to Japan's new emergency economic stimulus package, released Friday, which called for stepped-up deregulation and increased government spending. The package was accompanied by the Bank of Japan's trimming of its official discount rate to a recordlow of 1 percent per annum.

Rubin was quoted as citing various private sector assessments that suggest the package has been deemed insufficient.

Takemura told reporters that he stressed to his U.S. counterpart that Japan was merely putting in place the "basic pillars" for further action, while planning to implement "more concrete" measures at a later time.

Rubin said he turned down Takemura's suggestion that the U.S. might consider issuing yen-denominated bonds.

"I said we had large, deep and effective capital markets, and we had no need to do debt denominated in the currency of another country," he said. "We also have large foreign currency reserves."

Japanese officials said that as evidence of recent U.S. success in tackling the federal deficit, Rubin pointed out to Takemura that the U.S. federal deficit has been brought down to a lower level percentage-wise than any other member of the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Further on Takemura-Rubin Meeting

OW1604235595 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT
16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bali, Indonesia, April 17 KYODO—Japan has asked the United States to study the possibility of raising its official discount rate in order to defend the faltering value of the dollar, a Japanese official said late Sunday.

The request came when Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura conferred with U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin on Sunday [16 April] morning, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Rubin is believed to have avoided any clear-cut response, however.

Takemura and Rubin took part in a finance ministers meeting of the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum which ended Sunday evening with the adoption of a joint statement.

The statement said in part that the ministers voiced concern over the yen's record rises against the dollar "that do not reflect economic fundamentals."

"There should be a determined effort to attain stability in the foreign exchange market, as such stability would benefit all member economies," the statement said.

The Japanese official accompanying Takemura called the statement "encouraging" and made clear Tokyo's policy of stressing the need for currency stability when finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries meet in Washington on April 25.

The remarks came amid increasing concern that the yen's unabated strength poses a threat to the budding economic recovery in Japan, which prompted the Japanese Government to formulate a pump-priming package last Friday, including a 0.75 percentage point cut to a record low of 1 percent in the Bank of Japan's discount rate.

The Japanese Government will "put the package into concrete shape" toward the G-7 meeting, the official said, and the crucial point is how the currency market will respond to such Japanese efforts.

Japan's Takemura Holds News Conference

OW1804045895 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 1

[By reporter Mikio Sugano]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bali, 16 Apr—Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, in a news conference following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) finance ministers' meeting, praised the outcome of the meeting, saying: "As the appreciation of the yen against other currencies is affecting Asian countries, those participating in this meeting have come to a common understanding regarding concerns over abrupt changes in exchange rates." Regarding the U.S. Secretary of Treasury pointing out that the exchange markets are not appraising Japan's emergency package of yen-stabilizing economic measures, Takemura said: "It takes one to two months to finalize our supplementary budget and work out details of our tax measures. Therefore, we would like to see our efforts evaluated after that."

Japanese, Indonesian Ministers Meet

OW1604022495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0038 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bali, Indonesia, April 16 KYODO—Indonesia is suffering considerably from the yen's rise, with 59 percent of its more than 85 billion-dollar foreign debt denominated in the soaring Japanese currency, Indonesian Finance Minister Mar'ie Muhammad was quoted as saying late Saturday [15 April].

Japanese officials said Mar'ie outlined Indonesia's plight in late night talks with Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura in Bali, where both are attending a meeting Sunday of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The officials said Mar'ie conveyed his country's wish that Japan "continue to bear in mind" how developing countries in the region can be adversely affected by fluctuations in the exchange rates of major world currencies.

Takemura was said to have consented, while pledging Japan's commitment "as a fellow Asian country" to speak out on behalf of the interests of the developing countries of Asia when it engages in talks in international forums.

Some 40 percent of Indonesia's bilateral debt to Japan is known to be denominated in yen. Mar'ie revealed that 59 percent of its total debt, including loans from such sources as the Asian development bank, must be repaid in yen.

The Japanese currency has soared more than 17 percent against the dollar since the start of the year, requiring Indonesia to shell out more money in dollar terms to service the debt.

Officials said Mar'ie praised Japan's "very impressive" emergency economic stimulus package unveiled Friday in Tokyo, which was accompanied by a 0.75 percentage point slashing of the Bank of Japan's official discount rate to a record low of 1 percent per annum.

Japanese, Thai Ministers Meet

OW1704041195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bali, Indonesia, April 17 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura on Monday [17 April] voiced hope that currency market sentiment will change in response to yen-stabilizing measures recently announced by Japan, Japanese officials said.

Last Friday's emergency yen package and other economic steps seem to have received a low rating from the market, but the steps will be materialized in line with compilation of the fiscal 1995 supplementary budget and import-promotion tax breaks, Takemura said during a meeting on Bali with Thai Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, according to the officials.

During the 30-minute meeting with the Thai finance minister, Takemura said he is convinced that the market's recognition will change when the measures take specific shape.

Takemura is in Indonesia where he attended a meeting Saturday and Sunday of finance ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which confirmed the 18-nation group's resolve to take steps to calm the currency market.

In Tokyo Monday morning, the yen renewed its strength against the dollar, despite the APEC accord on the currency market.

It is widely believed that yen-buying pressure mounted again as Takemura's meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin here Sunday failed to establish specific steps to tame the soaring yen.

Thai Finance Minister Tharin expressed concern over the recent yen surges, saying his country is baffled by the situation, the officials said.

Tharin was quoted as saying that Thai trade with Japan and its external debt are being affected by the strong yen.

Takemura said Japan will strive to restore order in the currency market while acknowledging that other Asian nations are concerned about the exchange market, the officials said.

Further on Japan-Thai Meeting

BK1804073295 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
18 Apr 95 p A5

[Report by Surachai Chuphaka]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Bali—Masayoshi Takemura, Japanese finance minister, yesterday invited his Thai counterpart, Tharin Nimmanhemmin, to a 30-minute meeting during which Japan expressed its intention to play a bigger role in Southeast Asian regional development programmes. The meeting was held behind closed doors at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) venue in Bali, according to Thai officials accompanying Tharin.

An official source said Japan is keen to increase its regional role, particularly in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand growth triangle programme and a six-nation plan involving Thailand, southern China, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Cambodia.

The source said Japan's interest is underlined by its status as the major shareholder of the Asian Development Bank, which is involved in cross-border regional development programmes. "They want to know more about the details and direction of the programmes," he said, adding that it is obvious Japan is increasing its role in mainland Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, Tharin was quoted as saying the continuing strength of the yen compared with the baht will not allow Thailand to seek more yen loans, especially from the 20th Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) package. An OECF mission will be in Thailand next week.

Tharin also asked the Japanese to reduce conditions placed on Thai yen loans. [passage omitted]

Thai Minister's Speech Summarized

BK1704045695 Bangkok *THAILAND TIMES* in English
17 Apr 95 p A1

[Report by Chuchat Kangwan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bali—Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemmin yesterday called on member countries of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to put in a concerted effort to bring about currency stability, in light of the current fluctuation of major world currencies particularly the Japanese yen and US dollar.

Speaking at the APEC Finance Ministers's Meeting in Bali on "Effects of Exchange Rate Movement on Trade and Investment in the Region," the Thai finance minister pointed out that "no single authority can be successful in conducting an orderly exchange rate adjustment" due to the size of the private funds involved in the world foreign exchange market.

"Therefore, a concerted effort to cope with such phenomenon would be beneficial to all economies in APEC," Tharin told the APEC gathering.

To his opinion, APEC should pursue the concept of an "ad hoc study group" as proposed by senior finance officials. Moreover, he viewed that the better dissemination of information to investors by the authority concerned, instead of unfounded market rumors, would be beneficial.

"And perhaps, the international financial institutions such as the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the World Bank, and the ADB (Asian Development Bank) could play some roles on this," commented Tharin.

Chosen as one of the key discussants on the exchange rate issue, Finance Minister Tharin also called for "a concerted effort by the APEC economies to adhere to" four basic principles. These are important requirements for sound economic policy and successful economic performance, according to Mr Tharin. They included: 1) the adoption of an open and market based policy that encourages private sector initiative and development; 2) the adoption of an outward-looking trade and investment policy; 3) the use of fiscal discipline and policy that fosters a high rate of national savings; and 4) the development of human resources.

"While these attributes are in no way the ingredients of a magic formula, a concerted effort by the APEC economies to adhere to these basic principles which will go a long way in ensuring greater exchange rate stability, and in fostering the region's economic growth and development to its fullest potential," said Tharin.

In addition to the two points, Tharin also commented on the yen-dollar movement. In his view, the recent yen-dollar movement "reflects a fundamental correction to the disequilibrium in trade and payment positions" between Japan and the United States. "I believe, it is a phenomenon of real adjustment, once completed, this adjustment will impart substantial benefits to counties in this region," commented Tharin.

Japan

Auto Talks: Tokyo, Washington Remain Apart

OW1804025395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0135 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 17 KYODO—Japan and the United States ended the first day Monday [17 April] of two-day high-level talks on ways to open Japan's auto and auto parts markets without making a breakthrough in the last remaining sector of long-running "framework" talks.

Meeting reporters after the talks, chief Japanese delegate Yoshihiro Sakamoto said, "Japan and the U.S. are (still) apart."

But he added, "We are neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the prospect of the ongoing talks."

Monday's talks focused on new U.S. proposals put forward in late March on ways to deregulate Japan's replacement parts market and expand the number of Japanese dealers handling U.S. cars, conference sources said.

The Japanese side, as it did in the March meeting, rejected the proposal on the replacement parts market, terming it a step that would lead to the virtual abolition of Japan's car inspection system, the sources said.

Japan also turned down a U.S. demand that Japanese automakers exercise influence on their affiliated dealers to handle U.S. automobiles, the sources said.

The sources said the Japanese side stressed that Japanese automakers have no role to play in expanding dealer networks for foreign cars.

Monday's meeting followed working-level discussions on technical issues last week, which produced no tangible accords on the auto trade talks, the only pending issue among the three priority sectors of the framework talks, which have continued for two years.

Trade in cars and car components represents about two-thirds of the 60 billion dollar U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

The U.S. side has indicated exasperation over what it views as the lukewarm Japanese response to Washington's proposals.

Recently, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said the U.S. wants to see a deal concluded within the next few weeks, indicating that Washington is ready to move up the Sept. 30 deadline for taking sanctions.

Vice Transport Minister for International Affairs Masahide Ochi also heads the Japanese delegation, along with Sakamoto, who is vice minister for international affairs at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The U.S. side is led by Undersecretary of Commerce Jeffrey Garten and Ira Shapiro, general counsel to the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.

Monday's talks did not touch on possible economic sanctions by Washington, the conference sources said. But the U.S. has repeatedly hinted at taking such an action since it began a probe into the auto trade with Japan under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Law following the talks' rupture last October.

The bilateral auto talks were resumed in January, with the U.S. accepting Japan's four conditions for restarting them, including the rejection of so-called "numerical targets" and application of Section 301.

Tokyo has repeatedly said it will break off the talks and bring the case to the World Trade Organization if the U.S. uses Section 301.

Prior to Monday's meeting, a senior U.S. official indicated Washington's preparedness to take punitive steps in the event of failure of the talks.

"I think it is premature to discuss the question of sanctions...The President and others have indicated that we will, we are prepared to take the steps needed to get that kind of agreement and to accomplish our goals, but I am not going to speculate beyond that," the official said.

U.S. officials previously hinted the U.S. will disclose in early May a list of Japanese items that are subject to punitive tariffs.

On deregulation of Japan's replacement parts market, the senior official said, "We are not proposing anything that is not feasible and not reasonable."

MITI To Back Showrooms for Imported Cars

OW1404141195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT
14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) disclosed plans Friday [14 April] to have imported car showrooms opened in Tokyo and other major cities as part of efforts to promote car imports.

Japanese negotiators at the subcabinet-level Japan-U.S. "Framework" talks on auto and auto parts trade, to be held Monday and Tuesday in Washington, will inform U.S. officials of the plans as part of efforts to seek a breakthrough in the deadlocked talks, MITI officials said.

Specifically, the MITI-affiliated Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) will establish the showrooms in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and other cities to show products of Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and other foreign carmakers, the officials said.

The showrooms are expected to be completed by next March.

The plans were worked out in connection with the government's latest package of emergency measures to arrest the yen's appreciation on the foreign exchange market, including efforts to promote imports of automobiles, auto parts and other products.

Evaluation of Finance Talks With U.S. Urged

OW1704131995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Comprehensive evaluation of the outcome of the meeting of Japanese and U.S. finance chiefs is needed before the get-together can be called a failure, a high-ranking Finance Ministry official said Monday [17 April].

Vice Minister Jiro Saito made the remark in a press conference in reply to a question if the meeting of Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin was a failure as the dollar fell in Tokyo after the meeting.

In their talks Sunday in Bali, Indonesia, Takemura and Rubin failed to agree on concrete measures to halt the dollar's fall against the yen.

Saito said, "The United States welcomed (Friday's) official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan."

It is not good to have excessive expectations of the result of a bilateral finance chiefs' meeting, he said.

Asked about a report that Rubin expressed dissatisfaction about the Japan's yen-curbing measures released Friday, Saito said he will take a wait-and-see attitude for a while for action by the U.S.

Saito said, "the U.S. side will make their own evaluation when Japan discloses items in the supplementary budget and import-boosting measures."

Takemura To Urge U.S. Action on Dollar at G-7

OW1804050195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Tuesday [18 April] he will further urge the United States to defend its currency when he meets again with U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin later this month.

"I wish to explain our position more strongly" at a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations scheduled for April 25 in Washington, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi quoted Takemura as saying.

Takemura made the statement at an informal cabinet gathering shortly after returning from a meeting on Bali Island, Indonesia, of finance chiefs of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

During the Bali meeting, Takemura exchanged views with Rubin on the dollar's unchecked slide against the yen.

Igarashi quoted Takemura as saying he briefed Rubin on Japan's new pump-priming package aimed at curbing the yen's record-breaking ascent against the dollar.

Takemura told Rubin that Japan will flesh out the yen-restraint package through compilation of a supplementary budget for fiscal 1995 in a month or two and Rubin responded that Washington looks forward to specific measures to be unveiled, the top government spokesman said.

Complaining of news reports suggesting Rubin had voiced dissatisfaction with the Japanese spending and deregulation package, Takemura said they agreed on the need for the two nations to stay in close contact on the volatile exchange rates, Igarashi said.

At the cabinet session, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Shun Oide criticized the United States for its perceived reluctance to curb the high-flying yen and prop up the dollar.

"I am not fully satisfied with the U.S. reaction to Mr. Takemura's accounts at the finance ministerial meeting," he was quoted as saying.

Home Affairs Minister Hiromu Nonaka expressed doubts about the dollar's role as the world's key reserve currency, adding that windfall profits from the yen's steep rise should be returned to consumers in a more visible fashion.

Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei also registered discontent with the U.S. Government's apparent lack of efforts to support its currency, Igarashi said.

Kamei was quoted as saying that more substantial fiscal measures should be taken to jump-start the Japanese economy, which has shown weak signs of recovery from a protracted slump but has been threatened by the yen's unabated rise.

Comments on G-7, Saito

OW1804045295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0428 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Tuesday [18 April] that Group of Seven (G-7) finance chiefs will take up the issue of the U.S. fiscal deficit as a contributing factor to the dollar's free fall in a meeting next week.

Takemura said at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, "The problem of cutting U.S. fiscal deficit will be a big theme at the G-7 meeting, and will be naturally on its agenda."

Takemura made the comment when asked whether Japan will again request the United States to take tough

dollar-defending measures at the meeting of G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors, scheduled April 25 in Washington.

Upward pressure on the yen has resumed in the market on disappointment that Takemura and U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin failed to agree on specific dollar-supporting measures in a meeting Sunday in Indonesia.

The dollar was trading around the upper half of the 81 yen level Tuesday morning, down from the 83 yen level late last week.

Takemura said Japan and European nations may cooperate at the Washington G-7 meeting in urging the U.S. for specific actions to defend the dollar, if their views are in accord.

At Sunday's bilateral meeting, Rubin did not express any dissatisfaction about the Japanese Government's emergency yen-restraint package announced last Friday, Takemura said.

Rather, Rubin showed a strong interest in specific actions to be worked out by Japan in a couple of months from now, the Finance Minister said.

Takemura stressed that the yen-curbing package focuses on how to drastically reduce Japan's current account surplus, especially with the U.S., though failing to set specific targets, such as pledging to cut the surplus by half, as proposed by the ruling coalition parties.

The government will do its utmost to flesh out the package and plans to submit a supplementary budget for fiscal 1995 as early as possible during May, he said.

Meanwhile, Takemura indicated Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito will step down before his term expires, apparently because of financial scandals involving senior ministry officials and the former president of a failed credit union.

"I will make judgment on when" Saito should retire, Takemura said.

Saito has been reprimanded over his failure to supervise ministry mandarins who allegedly had cozy relations with and received favors from the former president of Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association, Harunori Takahashi.

Some cabinet ministers have called for Saito's early retirement as public criticism mounts of a controversial government-led plan to bail out Tokyo Kyowa and another failed credit union—Anzen Credit Bank.

Takemura said that during their hourlong meeting he asked Rubin to issue yen-denominated Treasury bonds as part of efforts to defend the dollar by selling yen on world currency markets.

It was a possible measure to improve the currency situation between Japan and the U.S., Takemura said.

However, Rubin showed little interest in the idea, saying that the U.S. has plenty of capital to finance its own intervention in world currency markets, Takemura told reporters.

BOJ's Official Discount Rate Cut Reviewed

OW1704142495 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 3

[Unattributed article: "Cornered Bank of Japan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bank of Japan [BOJ] decided to cut its official discount rate on 14 April. Seen as a forced choice, the decision was made two weeks after the central bank announced its policy to guide short-term money market rates lower at the end of March. Its failure to guide money rates lower urged the bank to take an additional monetary measure to retrieve its honor. At any rate, now that the BOJ has reduced its key lending rate, which was the bank's last card, there is not much left for the bank to do to support the nation's economy.

The BOJ began efforts to guide money market rates lower at the end of March. It intended to "watch the effects of the policy for about a month" (according to a senior BOJ official). However, the yen rapidly appreciated against the dollar and the dollar nearly hit 80 yen at one point on 10 April, which upset the bank.

At a meeting of the ruling parties' project team on the yen's appreciation held in the lower house first members' office building on the afternoon of 12 April, most participants said: "An official discount rate cut should be included in the government's yen-curbing package."

However, a reference to the "official discount rate" and "monetary steps" was not in the emergency economic package the government compiled on the night of 13 April to combat the yen's rapid appreciation. Several sources concerned said: "A trap had been set from the night of 12 April to 13 April."

Although the ruling parties called for reducing the key lending rate, the BOJ said, "We hope monetary measures will not be included in the economic package," in an attempt to avoid the situation in which the bank, bowing to political pressure, is forced to cut the rate. Trying to trick the BOJ into consent, a senior ruling coalition government official reportedly suggested to the bank that "the government would not include them in its economic package if the BOJ agrees to implement the key lending rate cut on the day the package is announced."

The Ministry of Finance [MOF], which has taken a wait-and-see attitude since last week, also appears to have thought: "Once the government's pump-priming package calling for a key lending rate cut is disclosed, the BOJ will have to implement the cut." From these things, you can picture BOJ falling into a government trap.

While watching the government's moves, the BOJ reexamined the effects of the stronger yen on the economy

and found that the yen's appreciation would reduce by about 20 percent manufacturing industry's expected profits in fiscal 1995. Based on this forecast and a report on discussions at a meeting of branch managers, the BOJ concluded by 13 April that "now, there is more than 50-percent possibility that the economy will turn downwards."

There were two choices. The bank had to either cut its official discount rate immediately to prevent a possible economic downturn or take action after the economy actually moves downwards. Some BOJ officials opposed a plan for the bank to cut its discount rate at this stage because if it reduced the rate to 1 percent, "further reduction will be impossible unless the nation is hit by great recession" (as stated by BOJ Planning Section Chief Yamaguchi). However, their voices were overwhelmed by the opinion that the BOJ should cut the key lending rate before it was too late.

There was also an opinion in the central bank that BOJ Governor Yasuo Matsushita, a former MOF official, was too sympathetic to the government's views. When Matsushita was urged by a government official to cut the official discount rate, he was told that "you should know if you decide to cut the key lending rate at this stage, it will enable you to implement a rate increase (which many would oppose) when you need to do so in the future." Matsushita reportedly showed understanding and decided to reduce the discount rate, which was the bank's last card.

The measures the BOJ can take at the moment to support the nation's economy are: urge the United States to reduce its current account deficit and persuade the country to take concerted action to stabilize exchange rates at such occasions as meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors of Group of Seven nations. It may also need to make further efforts to lead money market rates lower. It is said that when it decided on a key lending rate cut, the BOJ also decided to guide the overnight call rate, a benchmark short-term money rate, lower, or to 1.375 percent. However, it will be possible to lower the money rate to about 1 percent if the economic situation worsens further.

Even with these measures, the BOJ will not be able to ease anxiety over the banking system and the poor economic situation. In a bid to alleviate the concern, the BOJ has noted that it is ready to provide sufficient short-term loans. It will respond to financial institutions' concerns by providing each with loans and special loans. However, the BOJ's special loan program may come under criticism in connection with the issue of rescuing two failed credit unions, Tokyo Kyowa Credit Union and Anzen Credit Union.

There are virtually no monetary measures to improve the current economic situation. Thus, it is likely that expectations will be high that government finances should be used to turn the economic situation around.

Banks Cut Time-Deposit Rates to Record Lows

OW1704042295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Most commercial banks lowered the rates on time deposits with terms of one year or less to record lows on Monday [17 April].

The move is in line with the trend of lower market rates which was prompted by last week's cut in the official discount rate to a record low 1 percent per annum, the banks said.

The banks slashed the rate on one-month large-lot deposits of 10 million yen or more by 0.05-0.20 percentage point, bringing the lowest rate among them to 1.10 percent.

Most banks also lowered the rate on large-lot deposits with terms of two years or more by 0.05-0.15 percentage point. Sanwa, Asahi and Tokai Banks kept their rates unchanged on those deposits, however.

FY94 Yen Loans Fall Below 1 Trillion Yen

OW1304133795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT
13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Low-interest yen loans provided by Japan to foreign countries in fiscal 1994 dropped 16 percent from the previous year, falling below the 1 trillion yen level for the first time in three years, the Foreign Ministry reported Thursday [13 April]. The loan amount for the year ended March 31 came to 875.1 billion yen, the ministry said. It said yen-based loans decreased because of the yen's appreciation, while dollar-based loans increased.

In addition, the ministry strictly screened projects that could cause environmental damage and required relocation of residents, officials said. The loans were provided for 99 projects in 25 countries, down from 114 projects in 30 countries the previous year, they said.

Teikoku Reports FY94 Bankruptcies Top 14,000

OW1404050095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT
14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The number of business failures in fiscal 1994 ended March 31 totaled 14,164 for the third straight year of 14,000-plus cases and showed the first 1.0 percent yearly rise in two years, a private credit research company said Friday [14 April].

Teikoku Databank said the combined liabilities of those bankruptcies were 6.37 trillion yen. The amount of annual debts, however, declined by 4.1 percent for the third consecutive year, it said.

In March alone, it said, the number of bankruptcies came to 1,410 cases, up 10.0 percent from a year earlier and up 23.7 percent from the previous month.

The monthly liability totaled 1.39 trillion yen, a record high reported in a month. The amount is three times that a year earlier and 2.5 times the previous month, Teikoku said.

The bankruptcy statistics cover only failure with more than 10 million yen in liabilities.

Analyzing the trend over the entire year, Teikoku said 63.2 percent of the business failures were due to "recession-related" factors such as difficulties in sales, exports, collecting accounts receivable and accumulation of bad loans.

The proportion of such failures is also a record high, it added.

Those related to the Jan. 17 Great Hanshin Earthquake that were reported in February and March totaled 51 cases.

The highest single factor of failures was the high appreciation of the yen against the dollar. Such cases totaled 109, up 38 percent from the year before, it added.

Firms May Reduce Jobs To Fight Surging Yen

OW1404052095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Labor Ministry expressed serious concern Friday [14 April] that the yen's appreciation might cause an adverse impact on the employment situation.

The ministry, citing a survey on about 1,000 major companies across the nation in late March, said a growing number of them replied they will have to cut their workforce should the yen's value rise further.

The ministry said 5.1 percent of respondents said they implemented or planned additional job reductions to counter the strong yen, up 1 percentage point over the previous survey in June last year.

The ministry said 7.4 percent of those polled said they have no plans to implement employment adjustments at present but added they will have to reduce jobs in the future if the yen's value stays at the present level, up from 5.6 percent last June.

It said 34.4 percent of the respondents said they will be forced to reduce jobs if the yen rises further, up from 28.9 percent in the previous survey.

The ratio of companies which are not considering job reductions decreased to 53.1 percent from 61.4 percent last June, the ministry said.

Effects of Yen Package, Discount Rate Discussed

OW1804014295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese, in its "News 2001" program at

2230 GMT on 15 April, carries a live 38-minute discussion on the yen's appreciation moderated by FNN announcers Yuji Kuroiwa and Junko Hamada. Present in the discussion are former Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe, Takeshi Noda, acting secretary general of the opposition New Frontier Party, Richard Koo, a senior researcher at the Nomura Research Institute, economist Tsuneo Iida, and Kikuo Iwate, a professor at the University of Sophia. As usual, political commentator Kenichi Takemura acts as a regular guest in the program.

Kuroiwa begins the program by asking discussion participants to comment on the recent sharp rise in the yen's exchange rate against the dollar. Iwate notes the need to properly deal with bad loans and says: "The .75 percent cut in the official discount rate will be able to keep the actual interest rate at less than 3 percent. Unless the actual interest rate is kept at less than 3 percent, the interest rate differentials between Japan and the United States will widen further, thereby keeping the yen strong against the dollar." Iida thinks the way the United States has managed its economy is responsible for the strong yen and says, "I believe that even if the government takes pains to map out a package of various measures to halt the yen from further rising against the dollar, it will not produce its desired effect." He adds that Japanese enterprises have no choice but to weather business difficulties arising from the sharply appreciated yen, as they have done in the past.

Asked about expanding Japan's imports, Koo notes the importance of this and holds Japan responsible for the strong yen. Koo points to Japan's trade surplus of \$130 billion and stresses the need for the Japanese Government to take measures aimed at making investors buy the dollar.

Watanabe notes the significance of the government's latest package of measures to stop the yen from further rising against the dollar, but points out that the package lacks specific numerical figures. Discussing the issue of bad loans, Watanabe stresses the need to shape international rules on this matter. Discussing the relaxation of regulations, Watanabe says, "The government needs to deal seriously with the relaxation of regulations."

Asked to comment on the recent cut in the official discount rate, Iwate points out that the "Bank of Japan missed an opportunity" and says: "I believe that the package of measures will have the effect of curbing the yen from further surging against the dollar. The package will have a favorable effect on the economy. If domestic demand is expanded, Japan's trade surplus with the United States will be reduced. The package will have the effect of stopping the yen from further rising against the dollar." Koo notes that investors no longer react to interest rates in the 1990's, in contrast to the 1980's, when they were sensitive to interest rates. Koo also says, "The cut in the official discount rate has the effect of stimulating the domestic economy, but it has no effect of halting the yen from further rising against the dollar."

Takemura notes that the rest of the world has limits in its patience with Japan and that "Japan needs to show the rest of the world its will to stop the yen from further rising."

Discussing the cut in the official discount rate, Watanabe points to the lack of coordination between the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan in handling the official discount rate.

Commenting on which country is responsible for the strong yen, Iwate says, "Japan is largely responsible for the strong yen." Watanabe stresses the need for Japan to expand its domestic demand and increase imports to reduce its current surplus and notes, "If Japan fails to do that, it would do nothing."

At 2308 GMT, Kuroiwa ends the discussion on the yen's appreciation by turning the discussion to the sarin gas attack on Tokyo subways.

Prime Minister Meets Visiting SRV Party Chief

OW1804120995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Vietnam's Communist Party chief Do Muoi agreed Tuesday [18 April] that the two countries should further promote their political and economic dialogue, a Foreign Ministry official said. But Murayama brushed aside Vietnam's calls for measures to help ease its swelling burden of debt in yen stemming from the Japanese currency's unrelenting surge against foreign currencies, the official said.

During a two-hour meeting at the Akasaka state guest house, Murayama vowed efforts to build bilateral relations that are future-oriented and wide-ranging, said the official, who briefed reporters on the talks.

Muoi, the first Vietnamese party general secretary to visit Tokyo, welcomed the recent deepening of bilateral relations as being of benefit not only to the peoples of Vietnam and Japan but to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world. He welcomed Murayama's proposals to expand the existing vice ministerial-level political dialogue and to hold government-level meetings to discuss increasing economic problems.

Touching on the yen's rise, Muoi, in Japan for a five-day visit from Monday through Friday, was quoted as saying, "Vietnam is still a poor country with per capita gross domestic product of 250 dollars." It therefore wants Japan to lower interest rates on its yen loans.

He also called for Japanese investment in Vietnam by the private sector in such areas as metallurgy, automobiles, electronics and petrochemicals. He particularly urged Japanese technology transfer in high-technology areas, the official said. Japan is Vietnam's biggest trading partner and aid donor.

Murayama voiced Japan's support for Vietnam's "Doi Moi" program of market-oriented economic reforms introduced in 1986 and said Japan will continue to assist the country's efforts to reconstruct itself and train personnel.

As part of Tokyo's support for Vietnam's efforts, Murayama pledged Japanese loans of 58 billion yen and a grant-in-aid of 3 billion yen, the official said.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Acting Foreign Minister Kozo Igarashi exchanged documents on the loan following the talks between Murayama and Muoi.

The 30-year loan, extended for eight projects, including the construction of a thermal power plant and road repairs, carries an annual interest rate of 1.8 percent. The lending rate is higher than the 1 percent imposed on loans for the world's least developed countries but lower than the 2.6 percent rate imposed on loans for "less developed" countries. Vietnam is not designated as a least developed country.

Murayama was quoted as telling Muoi that Japan extends yen loans to about 80 countries according to a "common rule," indicating that Japan cannot lower the interest rate for Vietnam.

He also explained that risks involving the exchange rate are unavoidable and that the control of foreign currency reserves on the recipients' side is important.

Turning to international affairs, Murayama welcomed Vietnam's planned entry to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July as the grouping's first communist member while expressing hope that Hanoi will enter the World Trade Organization (WTO) as soon as possible, the official said.

Muoi told Murayama that Vietnam also hopes to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in the future, when conditions are ripe.

The 78-year-old communist party leader said Vietnam wants a peaceful solution to the dispute involving the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Murayama expressed hope that the dispute will be solved in a peaceful manner, the official said.

Murayama Hosts Banquet

OW1804120195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama expressed hope Tuesday [18 April] for broader personnel exchanges between Japan and Vietnam in a bid to further bilateral relations.

"I believe that in order to further develop the friendship between Vietnam and Japan, it is important to deepen and broaden the already broad exchange between the

peoples of the two countries," he told a banquet he hosted in honor of visiting Vietnamese Communist Party chief Do Muoi.

Muoi, who arrived in Japan on Monday for a five-day official visit, thanked Japan for its economic cooperation with Vietnam in recent years and said he expects the two nations to develop their cooperative relationship further.

"Indeed, the Vietnam-Japan cooperation potentialities are very vast and abundant," he said.

"I am deeply convinced that the Vietnam-Japan cooperation on the principle of equality and mutual benefit will bring about many good things for the peoples of both countries, contributing to peace, stability and development of Asia-Pacific and the world over."

Muoi also cited the need for Japan and Vietnam to pitch in to secure durable peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, which he said should be turned into the "most dynamically and forcefully economic growing region."

Murayama, who visited Vietnam last August, indicated the possibility of the two countries playing their due part in helping ensure regional peace and stability.

"It is my belief that Vietnam and Japan can work together and contribute to peace and stability in this growing Asian region," he said.

Tokyo Pledges Yen Loan

OW1804073095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japan agreed Tuesday [18 April] to loan Vietnam up to 5.8 billion yen for economic and social development and grant 42 million yen in cultural aid, the Foreign Ministry said. The loan was pledged at an international conference on aid to Vietnam held in November in Paris.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi, who is sitting in as foreign minister while Foreign Minister Yohei Kono visits New York, exchanged documents on the aid at the Akasaka state guesthouse, the ministry said.

The 30-year loan, with a grace period of 10 years, will help fund eight projects in Vietnam's economic infrastructure, including electricity supply, transportation and an environmental scheme in Hanoi, it said.

The cultural grants will be used to purchase audiovisual equipment for Japanese-language education at a Vietnamese university, the ministry said.

The latest aid brings the total of Japanese loans to Vietnam to 165.6 billion yen.

Japan-U.S. Group Offers Mekong Power Plan

OW1704131095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—A Japanese-U.S. group has drawn up a vast electrification plan for the Mekong river region of Indochina that is being seen as a model project for future international development efforts, officials said Monday [17 April].

The "Mekong Power Express" plan for 1,500 kilometers of high-voltage power lines to route hydroelectric power from Laos to meet the burgeoning needs of Vietnam and Thailand is expected to become a topic for discussion among Japanese Government officials and the visiting Do Muoi, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, they said.

The project is tentatively estimated at 811 million dollars by the group, including world engineering leader Bechtel Corp. of the United States and Electric Power Development Co., an affiliate of a Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) agency.

MITI officials said Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members will study detailed implementation plans by the group at a meeting expected for September, expressing hope the project could get under way in 2000.

It is expected to become a target for technological assistance and yen loans under Japanese official development assistance, with funding also expected from the Asian Development Bank, they said.

The "region-oriented, environment-friendly, demand-oriented" and economically efficient project would route excess production from Laos, where "the potential of hydropower is immense," to growing Thailand and Vietnam, the group said in a report.

Demand in the region is expected to nearly triple in the next 10 years, it says.

"Thailand is and will remain the principal producer and user" of electricity at 80 percent of regional demand, Vietnam at just under a fifth of demand will increase in demand and supply, and Laos with less than half a percent of demand will remain tiny but has excess production.

The group proposes a central 500 kilovolt line through Laos, from Nam Ngum near the capital of Vientiane to Yali in the southeast near the border with southern Vietnam. Off the main trunk, a northern spur would run to Ban Mai, Vietnam, some 200 km southwest of Hanoi, and central lines would run west to Roi Et and Ubon Ratchathani in eastern Thailand.

The plan bypasses Cambodia as a "negligible player in the region" in power supply and demand, adding that "the country is not yet stabilized." It urges grants to the war-torn nation to facilitate electricity supply.

The group said it plans future studies of nearby Myanmar [Burma] and China's Yunnan Province.

The group, which conducted studies in the region in October and December, also includes Nippon Koei Co. of Japan and Development Alternatives Inc. of the United States, brought together for the project by the MITI-Affiliated Engineering Consulting Firms Association.

Tokyo To Caution U.S. on PKO Budget Cut
OW1804055495 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The government decided to call on the United States to deal cautiously with "the National Security Revitalization Bill (bill for cutting spending for the UN Peace Keeping operations [PKO])," so as not to hamper PKO activities because of the financial assistance cut. If the U.S. Senate approves the bill, the U.S. share in spending for the PKO activities will be cut. Since Japan regards PKO activities as a pillar of its contributions to the international community, there is a sense of crisis that "PKO activities may be difficult to maintain" (according to a senior Foreign Ministry official).

The government has been expressing a positive stance on cooperating in PKO activities. For example, its fact-finding mission on PKO activities in the Golan Heights in the Middle East will be dispatched on 10 April, along with the dispatch of a delegation of the Tripartite Ruling Coalition. Ambassador to the United States Takakazu Kuriyama has called on Chairman Jesse Helms of the Senate Committee of Foreign Relations and Chairman Nancy Kassebaum of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources to deal with the issue cautiously. The government plans to prevent the adoption of the bill before it is approved by the Senate by explaining the significance of the PKO activities to the members of the upper house.

Source Comments on 'Comfort Women' Fund
OW1804101495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A planned Japanese private fund, which will atone for Tokyo's wartime forcing of Asian women into sexual servitude for Japanese soldiers, will be aimed at preventing human rights violations of women in Asia, government sources said Tuesday [18 April].

The fund will promote friendship with Asian countries through efforts to eradicate violations of women's dignity and honor, they said.

The government plans to create the fund with 1 billion yen donations to be raised from the private sector to show remorse for Japan's drafting of women into sexual servitude before and during World War II.

An estimated 80,000 to 200,000 women, mostly Koreans, were forced to provide sex at frontline brothels for the Japanese Imperial Army.

South Korean diplomatic sources, however, have criticized the blueprint, saying it is not clear how the Japanese Government will be involved.

In response to such criticism, Tokyo has decided to focus the fund on human rights issues, according to the sources.

The money will be used to fund surveys, educate the public and help prevent activities that violate women's rights, they said.

Japan wants to begin paying the former sex slaves a "one-time allowance" and provide free medical passes by the end of the year, the sources said.

The project will cover women of any nationality, but Tokyo has not decided whether it will cover Japanese women who were taken to wartime brothels, they said.

The government also has not decided what it will do if it fails to raise the money or if some women refuse to accept the allowance.

Some Asian women are against the private-sector plan, saying the Japanese Government itself should pay redress.

Contradictions in Nonnuclear Policy Viewed
OW0704055995 Tokyo RONZA in Japanese Apr 95 pp 17-21

[Article by Terumi Furukawa, professor of law at Hosei University, entitled: "The Government Does Not Say the Use of 'Nuclear Arms' is Illegal: Nonnuclear Policies Embody Major Contradictions"]

Those Who Dropped Atomic Bombs and the Victims of These Atomic Bombings

In the United States, incidents took place in succession to illustrate that there still exists a really wide gap between Japan and the United States with whom the former has been taking joint steps in many fields.

The first case was that an atomic bomb exhibit planned by the U.S. Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum had actually been suspended. Its programmed contents and planned exhibit of objects exposed to atomic bombings, and to be leased by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were met with strong opposition by U.S. war veterans organizations and Congress on the grounds that Japan would be made the war victim and throw doubt on the justifiability of dropping atomic bombs.

It was made public last December that a postage stamp design commemorating the 50th anniversary of the World War II victory to be issued by the U.S. Postal

Service contained the picture of an A-bomb blast mushroom cloud and a phrase "A-bombs hastened end of war." It was a kind of presentation of the U.S. understanding that the dropping of A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justifiable acts to save hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers' lives that would otherwise have been lost during Japan mainland landing operations. The Japanese Government asked that due consideration be paid to the sentiment of the Japanese people, the only nation that suffered atomic blasts, and consequently the postage stamp's design was replaced.

The two incidents illustrated that those who dropped A-bombs and those who suffered the A-blasts do not share common views about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, despite 50 years having passed since the war. Not only that, the basic posture of the Japanese Government has become apparent toward the use of nuclear weapons.

The atomic bomb exhibit is basically a matter to be decided by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and Prime Minister Murayama refrained from making an official comment on it, except that "it is regrettable from the viewpoint of national sentiment." On the postal stamp design of the A-bomb mushroom cloud, he did not question the logic or historical understanding of the United States to justify the atomic bombings. He only asked for due consideration to be paid to Japanese national sentiment.

After all, is the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a matter that can be dealt with from the viewpoint of national sentiment?

Last June, the Japanese Government attempted to submit a written statement to the effect that the use of nuclear weapons "cannot be said to be a violation of international law," in connection with World Health Organization [WHO] reference to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] as to whether the use of nuclear weapons constitute an unlawful act. Confronted with severe repulsion of public opinion, the Diet and mass media, the government deleted that portion from the statement and submitted it, but reportedly that view still holds.

In addition, Japan abstained last November when the First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution with reference to the ICJ in connection with the legality of use of nuclear weapons and did the same in the following December at the plenary session of the General Assembly that officially adopted it.

The government view that the use of nuclear weapons cannot be said to be illegal was not specially prepared for that written statement. That position has been presented time and again in answers at the Diet and in written replies since 1980. The Japanese people have been poorly informed about it because the importance of that position was overlooked, and thus there was little coverage of it.

By the way, is it illegal to use nuclear weapons? Or is it legal? In connection with this question, views and practices of countries concerned are still divided. It is apparent because 35 nations including Japan that submitted written statements to the ICJ are not in agreement in their opinion, although 21 of them insisted it is in violation of international law. Therefore, the court has been asked for its judgment.

First, there are no treaties in general that inclusively and specifically ban the use of all nuclear weapons. But, like the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and its supplementary protocol, and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and its supplementary protocol, special treaties have been signed and gone into effect to prohibit the use of nuclear arms in specific countries and regions.

The Only Judgment That Recognized Illegality

Secondly, as far as resolutions are concerned, the UN General Assembly since 1961 has adopted approximately 20 resolutions declaring the use of nuclear weapons illegal and it constitutes crimes against mankind and civilization. Although nations possessing nuclear weapons abstained and cast negative votes, these resolutions can be considered the predominant opinion of the international community because they were adopted by majority vote.

Third, a group of international laws related to warfare, such as laws on armed conflict and laws on international humanity, do not give unlimited freedom in the selection of weapons. Even for such weapons not specifically mentioned as prohibited, their uses are subject to a certain restriction under the four major principles.

These principles are: first, no attacks shall be made on nonmilitary objects and ordinary people; second, a balance shall be taken between military advantage and damages suffered by ordinary people; third, unnecessary pain shall not be afflicted; and fourth, the environment shall not be destroyed. So, a question arises as to whether the use of nuclear weapons is compatible with these principles.

Due to their special character, use of nuclear weapons will always bring indiscriminate, wide-range and long-range effects, and they violate all principles mentioned above, as claimed by the theory of "absolute violation of law." To this, there is an opposing theory of "conditional legitimacy," which differentiates illegality from legitimacy by the way nuclear weapons are used.

Fourth, in theories, many scholars are engaged in active academic research into the matter and the world trend is inclined to the theory of illegality represented by such world renowned experts on international law as (R. Falk) of the United States and (I. Brownly) of the United Kingdom.

Japan's written statement refers to "objective observance of international practices and theories expounded

by scholars on international law," as its basis for not being able to say the use of nuclear weapons is illegal. But it is far from a clearcut determination.

As a matter of fact, Japan once seriously dealt with this problem and delivered a judicial decision. The Tokyo District Court in 1963 delivered a decision that the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was in violation of international law. The court demanded the Japanese Government in place of the U.S. Government pay indemnity to those who suffered physical as well as material damages inflicted by illegal atomic bombs. The court based its judgment on the previously mentioned principles 1 and 3 of international law.

In short, the atomic bombing, even if supposedly aimed at military targets is against the principle because "its colossal destructive power will result in a similar consequence as that of blind bombing." Also, "the fact that even today there are still people whose lives are threatened by the effects of radioactivity 18 years after the bombing" is an extraordinary pain unnecessarily inflicted on them in the execution of military mission, thus constituting a violation of the principle.

This judicial decision was the only domestic judicial precedent that determined the dropping of A-bombs as illegal, and is supported and frequently quoted by many scholars throughout the world.

World nuclear powers such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, taking on conditional theory of legitimacy, insist that whether the use of nuclear weapons is illegal or not must be individually judged according to the size of the weapons used, the objects, damage inflicted and places where used.

As far as it is a nuclear weapon, however small it is, the radioactivity it carries will threaten the next generation even after the war, as the Tokyo District Court determined. Human reason cannot tolerate a claim that such pain is necessary in order to obtain a military advantage. This is the weakest point for those who insist on conditional legitimacy; thus, the written statements of those nuclear powers do not make direct referral to this point.

Then, what are the reasons behind such a wide diversity of opinion as seen in the Tokyo District Court judicial decision upholding the illegal theory, the U.S. understanding of A-bombs, theories of absolute illegality and conditional legitimacy, and the Japanese Government view that the use of nuclear weapons cannot be determined as illegal?

As a matter of fact, every Japanese knows the reason why. Because every Japanese has already learned about it through interpretation of Article 9 of the Constitution.

Irrespective of individuals or nations, when their legal rights or interests are involved, it is practically impossible for them to judge or interpret laws in an absolutely objective manner. They tend to attempt interpreting laws more or less to protect themselves. Since laws can

be interpreted in many ways, output of interpretation will be determined according to when the predetermined values or conclusions were input in the first place.

When nuclear problems are considered, the Japanese people cannot totally shake off the existence of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. The old and new Japan-U.S. security treaties of 1951 and 1960 ensure U.S. defense activities in case the Japanese territory is subjected to armed attacks. Although no clear provisions exist, it is understood to include use of nuclear weapons. Irrespective of right or wrong, it means Japan is protected under a "nuclear umbrella."

Discrepancy Between Government Views and Popular Opinion

Therefore, it will become self-contradictory for Japan which signed a security treaty declaring the use of nuclear weapons illegal. It is also illogical for Japan to insist on its disapproval of the U.S. use of nuclear weapons. Thus, it is a foregone conclusion that the Japanese Government does not say, from the viewpoint of security policy, that the use of nuclear weapons is illegal.

But what matters now is that a big discrepancy has come into being between such a government position and views and the people's opinion that consistently adheres to the "three nonnuclear principles."

The three nonnuclear principles that Japan will "not possess, produce nor let others bring in" nuclear weapons were made public by Prime Minister Sato in 1967 and the Diet in 1971 adopted a resolution to observe these principles, thereafter constituting Japan's basic policy.

This Diet resolution is neither a binding one for Japan to directly bear responsibility, nor obligatory to other nations. But it is true that it has become universally acknowledged, thus making it a semi-official pledge that cannot be violated. Despite suspicions about whether nuclear weapons were brought into Japan by U.S. naval craft entering Japanese ports aroused by Admirals Laroque in 1974 and Reischauer in 1981, the principles are still upheld. An opinion survey conducted by ASAHI SHIMBUN in 1985 revealed 78 percent of those polled supported the three nonnuclear principles.

The combination of the three nonnuclear principles and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty was a policy chosen by Japan in a severe world situation surrounding it, such as the threats posed by the PRC and the Soviet Union, tension on the Korean peninsula, and so on.

What kind of conclusion can be drawn from the following three factors: the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the three nonnuclear principles and public opinion determining the use of nuclear weapons as illegal as had been made apparent in connection with the written statement? In short, the Japanese, in accordance with the three nonnuclear principles will not possess, produce,

nor use nuclear weapons by themselves. But they will let the United States use the illegal nuclear weapons to protect Japan. A dreadful conclusion is in sight in that those who suffered nuclear blasts will permit themselves to be exposed to radioactivity like in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 50 years ago.

How is Japan going to solve this nuclear contradiction as a nation that has full knowledge of the tragedy nuclear weapons brought upon them, and which has the three nonnuclear principles?

Is it all right to leave the discrepancy between the people's consciousness and the security policy and the discrepancy in understanding between Japan and the United States as they are?

Another factor that cannot be ignored in considering the nuclear weapons problem is the discrepancy of views between the Japanese people and other Asians.

According to ASAHI SHIMBUN on 1 January 1995, Nagasaki Mayor Motoshima pointed out, "At the news of atomic bombing, Asian people who were invaded by Japan said it was God's help and more than half of the world's people rejoiced." "There lay Japan's tragedy."

The 50-year time span since the war has not yet filled the big discrepancy between the consciousness of the Japanese, as the victims of atomic bombings, and other Asian people's views of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as the victims of Japanese invasion.

A long time, enormous mental energy, and huge expenses are required to fill up the deep and dark abyss between them. It is a noteworthy change for the Nagasaki citizens to break away from the spell of victims' consciousness and decide to put on a display of reference materials in connection with the pre-war history that led to the dropping of an A-bomb in the soon to be remodeled International Cultural Hall.

Japan must not amplify the sense of distrust among the Asian people in handling problems left over for post-war disposition, an important pillar for Japan in sharing views about Hiroshima and Nagasaki with other Asian people.

In dealing with the post-war indemnity projects, Japan made it a rule to pay an indemnity to nations in the amount of approximately 650 billion yen including grants. Therefore, little claims from individuals have still not yet been met. Thus, those who had been turned down by the Japanese Government for indemnity payments had to bring the matter to the Japanese courts to sue the Japanese Government. The number of those plaintiffs may be small but it must not be forgotten that tens of thousands, and even hundreds of thousands of Asian people are watching the court proceedings.

In connection with military comfort women problems, the Japanese Government—which had hitherto failed to acknowledge the former military involvement in the

matter—finally decided to take action only after official documents were presented as undeniable proof. This sort of attitude serves to amplify the sense of distrust among the Asian people.

World Keeps Eyes on Views of Atomic-Blast Victim Japan

Fifty years have elapsed since the end of WWII. What Japan has neglected and lost sight of in the process of accomplishing an unprecedented economic growth now begins to appear for everybody to see. Various discrepancies that made appearances in connection with the use of nuclear weapons are related to such problems.

The fact that the UN General Assembly, following the steps of the WHO, consulted the ICJ on whether the use of nuclear weapons is illegal or not reflect that the international community has come to such a stage that it cannot suppress its wish to seek a judicial judgment on whether nuclear weapons are allowed for use under international law.

The ICJ and all world nations have to pay due consideration to this development. There can be such cases that actual examination of the case will not take place on the grounds that it has no actual jurisdiction over it, or that it is incompatible for it to respond to such a consultation. Even if an actual examination of the case is made, it is not always true that it will make a declaration of illegality.

The ICJ's judiciary judgment will be made by a simple majority of 15 judges, five of whom are from nuclear powers. In the ICJ history, it is quite rare for the judges to express views different from those of their home countries. If eight judges are so decided, the case can be rejected without being examined.

As for the WHO's referral, 35 nations including Japan submitted written statements and these countries can also submit their opinion papers by 20 June this year.

In relation to the UN General Assembly's referral, the ICJ—as in the case of the WHO—requested its member nations to submit written statements by 20 June, and the deadline for submission of opinion papers is set for 20 September.

The opinion of Japan, the only A-bomb victim, will certainly draw worldwide attention.

Those Who Dropped Atomic Bombs and the Victims of These Atomic Bombings

In the United States, incidents took place in succession to illustrate that there still exists a really wide gap between Japan and the United States with whom the former has been taking joint steps in many fields.

The first case was that an atomic bomb exhibit planned by the U.S. Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum had actually been suspended. Its programmed contents and planned exhibit of objects exposed to atomic bombings, and to be leased by

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were met with strong opposition by U.S. war veterans organizations and Congress on the grounds that Japan would be made the war victim and throw doubt on the justifiability of dropping atomic bombs.

It was made public last December that a postage stamp design commemorating the 50th anniversary of the World War II victory to be issued by the U.S. Postal Service contained the picture of an A-bomb blast mushroom cloud and a phrase "A-bombs hastened end of war." It was a kind of presentation of the U.S. understanding that the dropping of A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justifiable acts to save hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers' lives that would otherwise have been lost during Japan mainland landing operations. The Japanese Government asked that due consideration be paid to the sentiment of the Japanese people, the only nation that suffered atomic blasts, and consequently the postage stamp's design was replaced.

The two incidents illustrated that those who dropped A-bombs and those who suffered the A-blasts do not share common views about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, despite 50 years having passed since the war. Not only that, the basic posture of the Japanese Government has become apparent toward the use of nuclear weapons.

The atomic bomb exhibit is basically a matter to be decided by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and Prime Minister Murayama refrained from making an official comment on it, except that "it is regrettable from the viewpoint of national sentiment." On the postal stamp design of the A-bomb mushroom cloud, he did not question the logic or historical understanding of the United States to justify the atomic bombings. He only asked for due consideration to be paid to Japanese national sentiment.

After all, is the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a matter that can be dealt with from the viewpoint of national sentiment?

Last June, the Japanese Government attempted to submit a written statement to the effect that the use of nuclear weapons "cannot be said to be a violation of international law," in connection with World Health Organization [WHO] reference to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] as to whether the use of nuclear weapons constitute an unlawful act. Confronted with severe repulsion of public opinion, the Diet and mass media, the government deleted that portion from the statement and submitted it, but reportedly that view still holds.

In addition, Japan abstained last November when the First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution with reference to the ICJ in connection with the legality of use of nuclear weapons and did the same in the following December at the plenary session of the General Assembly that officially adopted it.

The government view that the use of nuclear weapons cannot be said to be illegal was not specially prepared for

that written statement. That position has been presented time and again in answers at the Diet and in written replies since 1980. The Japanese people have been poorly informed about it because the importance of that position was overlooked, and thus there was little coverage of it.

By the way, is it illegal to use nuclear weapons? Or is it legal? In connection with this question, views and practices of countries concerned are still divided. It is apparent because 35 nations including Japan that submitted written statements to the ICJ are not in agreement in their opinion, although 21 of them insisted it is in violation of international law. Therefore, the court has been asked for its judgment.

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The ICJ and all world nations have to pay due consideration to this development. There can be such cases that actual examination of the case will not take place on the grounds that it has no actual jurisdiction over it, or that it is incompatible for it to respond to such a consultation. Even if an actual examination of the case is made, it is not always true that it will make a declaration of illegality.

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As for the WHO's referral, 35 nations including Japan submitted written statements and these countries can also submit their opinion papers by 20 June this year.

In relation to the UN General Assembly's referral, the ICJ—as in the case of the WHO—requested its member nations to submit written statements by 20 June, and the deadline for submission of opinion papers is set for 20 September.

The opinion of Japan, the only A-bomb victim, will certainly draw worldwide attention.

Coalition To Delay on No-War Resolution

OW1704160995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1516 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The Diet is not likely to adopt a no-war resolution before Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the

Social Democratic Party (SDP), visits China in early May, ruling coalition officials said Monday [17 April] evening.

Murayama and Koichi Kato, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), agreed during a meeting Monday that the three ruling parties—the SDP, the LDP and New Party Sakigake—should debate the issue within each party after Murayama's China visit, they said.

The three parties hope to pass a resolution in the Diet showing the country's determination never to wage war again, but a number of LDP members are against the proposal.

Further on Delay

OW1804000895 Tokyo KYODO in English 2342 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The government and ruling coalition parties have agreed to postpone the planned drafting of a no-war Diet resolution until after Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's May 2-6 visit to China, coalition officials said Tuesday [18 April].

Murayama confirmed the new line during separate meetings Monday with two senior coalition officials—Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ] Secretary General Wataru Kubo and Koichi Kato, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Policy Affairs Research Council, the officials said.

Murayama told Kato he is not insisting on an early agreement on the matter among the three coalition parties—the LDP, SDP and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger]. Murayama had earlier called for settlement before his China visit.

Kato told Murayama that he intends to settle the issue before the end of the current Diet session. The Diet session is due to expire June 18.

The officials said the LDP and the SDP have given up hopes of settling the issue before Murayama's China visit because some LDP members oppose wrapping up a no-war Diet resolution as a "gift" to China.

They added that some SDP members demand more thorough deliberations on the content of such a resolution.

The three parties agreed in June last year to pass a war-renouncing resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary this year of the war's end, but a large number of LDP members are reluctant.

Majority Favors Revision of Constitution

YOMIURI Survey

OW1504145095 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 6 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the YOMIURI SHIMBUN for two days

from 25 to 26 March on the Constitution, showed that a majority of those polled, or 50.4 percent, "favored an amendment to the Constitution." The percentage was a record high since the YOMIURI SHIMBUN began conducting the nationwide public opinion poll in 1981; the previous record high was marked in the 1993 poll. The poll also showed that 31 percent of those polled opposed the amendment to the Constitution; this percentage was the lowest since the poll was first taken in 1981. A poll conducted last year showed that less than 40 percent of the respondents favored the amendment to the Constitution, but with the current poll, the percentage in favor of amending the Constitution increased to 50 percent. The latest poll thus indicated that the tendency to support the rewriting of the Constitution has been setting in among the people. As for the reasons for hoping for the constitutional amendment, the consensus of those polled said that "Japan will face new issues which it will be unable to take on with the current constitution." Ninety percent of those surveyed asked that the Constitution be rewritten to enable the prime minister to display leadership during times of crisis. With the passage of 50 years since the end of World War II, at a time when Japan is being forced to deal with a new situation which was not anticipated when the current constitution was enacted, the people's perception of the Constitution is greatly changing.

In polls taken before 1991, the percentage of those polled who opposed amending the Constitution exceeded those who favored amending it. In the 1993 poll, taken shortly after the end of the Gulf War, 50 percent of the respondents favored amending the Constitution, whereas 33 percent opposed amending it, showing a reversal in the percentages of supporters and opponents of constitutional change. This tendency has since continued.

In the latest poll, 59 percent of the supporters of the constitutional amendment were in their twenties. Thus, many of the supporters are younger people. More than 50 percent of the supporters of constitutional change were in their twenties to forties. By gender, 55 percent of the males surveyed in the latest poll favored amending the Constitution, while 47 percent of the females surveyed favored it, showing that the percentage of males who support the amendment to the Constitution slightly exceeds that of females.

As reasons for favoring constitutional reform, 57 percent of the respondents said, "Japan will face issues which it will be unable to tackle with the current constitution" whereas 29 percent of them said: "If Japan deals with new issues only with a new interpretation of the Constitution and a new handling of it, this will cause confusion," while 22 percent of them said, "The current constitution was enacted under pressure from the U.S."

As reasons for opposing the amendment to the constitution, 50 percent of those surveyed said, "The current constitution has already taken root in the people," whereas 30 percent of them said, "The current constitution is a pacifist constitution, which Japan is proud to

show to the rest of the world," while 30 percent of them claimed, "If the current constitution is rewritten, this may open the way for Japan to become a military superpower."

Asked to comment on the six points that have been made in the course of debating the amendment to the Constitution, 90 percent of those polled favored adding a new provision on "crisis management" to the Constitution, saying, "We hope that a new provision will be added to the Constitution to enable the prime minister to speedily deal with emergency situations such as great disasters," whereas 69 percent of them favored stipulating Japan's right of self-defense in the Constitution, saying, "We hope the Constitution will stipulate that as a nation, Japan has the right of self-defense." Seventy-two percent of them said, "We hope the Constitution will stipulate the rights of privacy, personality, and environment." In this way, a large number of people took the view that it is desirable to rewrite the current constitution.

Asked to comment on the brisk debates on amending the Constitution, 72 percent of the respondents said "it is desirable," an increase of 7 percent from last year, whereas 13 percent of them said "it is undesirable," showing a decrease of 8 percent from last year. In this way, the poll showed that the view that constitutional change is taboo has become a thing of the past.

Asked to comment on a draft amendment to the Constitution that was made public last November by the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, 22 percent of those polled said they have either read or heard about the draft amendment, whereas 76 percent said they have neither read nor heard about it.

KYODO Conducts Poll

OW0604024995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0229 GMT
6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Just over half of Japanese voters surveyed in a recent poll support revising the nation's war-renouncing constitution, the major national daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN said Thursday [6 April].

The YOMIURI said a survey of 1,944 respondents conducted March 25-26 shows 50.4 percent support such a revision, a figure on a par with a record high in the daily's similar poll in 1993.

The paper said a record low 31 percent oppose revision.

"The number of those who supported constitutional amendment dropped to less than 50 percent in a poll conducted last year," said the YOMIURI, which supports a constitutional revision.

"But the number rose to 50 percent again this year, indicating that the idea of rewriting the constitution is becoming acceptable to the public," it said.

The paper said the majority of those who backed changing the constitution cited the fact that the government cannot handle various tasks and issues such as international contributions within the framework of the current constitution.

Noting that the survey was conducted in the 50th anniversary year of the end of World War II, the paper said the number of young people supporting revision was especially high, while 69 percent say the constitution should state that Japan reserves the right to defend itself.

MOF Earmarks Y2.1 Trillion for Extra Budget

OW1804013995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The Finance Ministry plans to earmark about 2.1 trillion yen [Y] in a supplementary budget for fiscal 1995, more than double the amount of the second such budget for the previous fiscal year, a newspaper reported Tuesday [18 April].

The ministry will submit the plan to the Diet by mid-May, in a bid to soften the blows delivered by the high yen to the economy and to help reconstruction in areas hit by January's Kobe earthquake, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN said.

According to the paper, the ministry is considering putting aside some 500 billion yen in the extra budget for development of science and technology as well as for establishing an information infrastructure. The funding is aimed at ensuring the effectiveness of the emergency economic package announced last Friday, the paper said.

Another 500 billion yen is sought for improvement of the road network and strengthening nationwide disaster-prevention measures.

Funds for reconstruction in western Japan following the Jan. 17 great Hanshin earthquake are likely to amount to 1.1 trillion yen, the paper said.

The ministry is considering facilitating most of the large-scale supplementary budget by issuing construction bonds and it also eyes floating 800 billion yen worth deficit-covering bonds, according to the newspaper.

To Include Infrastructure Spending

OW1704135795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Leaders of the ruling coalition government agreed at a meeting Monday [17 April] to include new infrastructure projects in a supplementary budget to be compiled in May for fiscal 1995 that started April 1, coalition officials said.

The inclusion of the infrastructure projects, along with spending on reconstruction work following the Jan. 17 great Hanshin earthquake, is aimed at putting flesh and

blood into the emergency package of measures the government adopted last Friday to stem the yen's steep appreciation and stimulate economic activity, the officials said.

The projects will include the improvement of Japan's high-speed transportation systems, science and technology and advanced information systems, the officials said.

To drastically reform the nation's economic structure, the leaders agreed to actively tackle such key issues as bad loans that are crippling financial institutions and the question of abolishing the securities transaction tax, according to the officials.

Participants in the meeting criticized the U.S. Government for its unfavorable reaction to the economic package as shown by U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin when he met Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura in Indonesia on Sunday.

In response, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi was quoted as saying that Washington intends to wait for a month or two to see how Japan will work out concrete steps to carry out the package.

MOF To Free 5 Percent of Public Works Budget

OW1604073095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0629 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has decided to thaw a freeze on a 5 percent portion of planned fiscal 1995 budgetary outlays for public works that was earlier set aside for funding reconstruction of quake-hit Kobe and its vicinity, ministry officials said Sunday [16 April].

The ministry agreed to demands to drop the freeze from ruling coalition parties that make up the administration of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, in a bid to counteract the soaring yen that is squeezing Japan's export-oriented economy, the officials said.

The 5 percent portion amounts to 430 billion yen, of which some 300 billion yen can now be spent to finance public works projects related to disaster prevention measures to be taken outside of the quake-ravaged area, they said.

The remaining 130 billion yen will go toward reconstruction in Kobe and its vicinity pummeled by the Jan. 17 Great Hanshin Earthquake, they said.

The ministry originally planned to pump the entire 430 billion yen into the first supplementary budget for fiscal 1995 to back up the reconstruction. The bill for the supplementary budget is now being drafted and will be put on the agenda in the Diet in May.

As a result of the thaw, the government will have to finance almost all expenditures for the supplementary

budget, estimated to total well above 1 trillion yen, by floating deficit-servicing and construction bonds.

When the government Friday adopted a package of emergency stimulative measures to ease the adverse impact of the skyrocketing yen on the economy, legislators from the coalition parties demanded that a greater sum of fiscal appropriations be included in the package.

The judgment that the government cannot propose to voters a new tax-hike measure to cover any additional fiscal steps ahead of a national parliamentary poll in July is now almost a consensus in government circles, they said.

The ministry therefore could not help deciding on the thaw, although it would certainly lead to bolstering the outstanding balance of government debts, they added.

Political Infighting Over DPRK Visit Viewed

OW1704122495 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 1 Apr 95 pp 114-116

[Article by political commentator Toichi Suzuki: "The Motives of the Three Parties' DPRK Visit After Much Bickering: Falling Into the Hands of Astute North Korean Diplomacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nature of the YKK [Taku Yamazaki, former director general of the Defense Agency and chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee; Koichi Kato, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Policy Research Council chairman; and Junichiro Koizumi, former posts and telecommunications minister]

YKK-Takeshita Confrontation

On 9 March, with the Diet in an uproar over testimony by Harunori Takahashi, the former director of Tokyo Kyowa Credit Union, it was revealed that the LDP had been negotiating behind the scenes for a delegation to visit North Korea. The news that "Kosuke Hori, acting chairman of the Policy Research Council, has met with a key DPRK figure in Singapore" spread like wildfire. The leak appeared to have originated somewhere in the vicinity of the Policy Research Council chairman himself, Koichi Kato. Hori conferred with Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] International Department, in Singapore on 9 February. Kim Yang-kon is said to be a close confidant of WPK Secretary Kim Yong-sun, who played a major role during the earlier DPRK visit of a delegation led by Shin Kanemaru and Makoto Tanabe. Reportedly, the Foreign Affairs Ministry was represented in the Singapore meeting. Hori later told former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita that: "The Policy Research Council chairman asked me to undertake the meeting."

Five years ago, the Kanemaru-Tanabe delegation issued the now infamous joint tripartite (LDP, Socialist Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], WPK) statement. The core of that statement follows:

"We express profound regrets for the trials and tribulations that Japan has inflicted upon the Korean people over the last 36 years, and we recognize a need to apologize and make restitution for the losses suffered in the 45 years since the war."

In its wake, the two governments met eight times over the next two years, most often in Beijing, in negotiations aimed at normalizing relations. However, these discussions halted with the surfacing of the suspicions of DPRK nuclearization and the controversy over Yi Un-hye.

Over the last year or two, there have been behind-the-scenes attempts on the Japanese side to renew the normalization talks, not surprisingly driven by former Prime Minister Takeshita. Over the last 10 years, Takeshita has served as chairman of the Parliamentarians' League for Japan-DPRK Friendship, and in concert with the SDPJ, which has valuable experience in developing relations with the North, has prepared the stage for an April revival of the talks.

A Japan-DPRK relations insider testifies: "Takeshita is the man most trusted by China, and probably for that reason, the DPRK also trusts Takeshita."

Viewed objectively, the foundation for changes in Japan-DPRK relations have already been developing. In the wake of President Kim Il-song's passing last July, in September, Tamisuke Watanuki tried to explore the possibility of sending a delegation to the DPRK for a condolence call. The DPRK rejected the proposal. Soon thereafter, on 21 October, came the signing of the joint U.S.-DPRK agreement that led to the 9 March signing in New York of the pact establishing KEDO (Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization). The DPRK will be supplied with South Korean made light water reactors, for which Japan will bear in excess of 100 billion yen of the \$4 billion (approximately 400 billion yen) interest free loan.

One insider points out: "In the first place, KEDO actually has its origins in Takeshita's thinking. Takeshita has always had plans for a Korean peninsula development fund to include both the DPRK and the ROK."

Resistance to the Takeshita framework of plans and policies for the Korean Peninsula was demonstrated by Koichi Kato and the YKK. Kato was notably influenced by Taku Yamazaki (former director general of the Defense Agency and chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee). Yamazaki visited Korea last June, with LDP Diet member Yoichi Tani. Unabashedly, Yamazaki says: "We went to make them stop nuclear weapons development."

Yamazaki expressed his concerns: "The KEDO framework is now clearly defined. Two 1-million-kilowatt light water reactors will be provided with one-fourth of their cost to be borne by Japan; the United States will bear no part of the cost. Meanwhile, Japan has to pay over 100

billion yen. The negotiations on normalization of Japan-DPRK relations have been cut off. Yet here we are giving money away just because the United States asks. These are exactly the same conditions as in the Persian Gulf crisis. We say 'yes, yes, whatever, whatever' to any U.S.-dictated terms, make no moves to act on our own initiative, and instead, blindly follow the U.S. lead in its plan to deal with the DPRK. How can we ask the people of this nation to accept the burden of paying 100 billion yen under such conditions?"

Yamazaki continues: "Therefore, we have to revive the Japan-DPRK normalization talks. The issue of indemnities for the DPRK is sure to come up during these talks. From our previous experience in dealing with the DPRK, the sum is likely to be in the tens of billions. If so, our contribution to the cost of the light water reactors should be included as part of the indemnity sought. The Foreign Affairs Ministry is saying that 'The light water reactors and war indemnities are two separate issues,' but that is nonsense. If we agree to these terms, the DPRK will receive massive grants but will have no appreciation toward Japan. I have never heard of anything so stupid."

Secretary Kim Yong-sun's Intentions

Even after his trip, Yamazaki maintained contacts with the DPRK. Yamazaki attended the celebrations in honor of Kim Chong-il's birthday hosted by Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] in mid-February, along with Yoshiro Hayashi and Yoichi Tani. At this party, Yamazaki was overheard telling someone from Chongnyon: "I have a favor to ask of you sometime this week."

Yamazaki recalls: "There were some cloaked gambits made in January and February. Then, in March, everything hit the fan." Most pivotal of the hidden moves was the direct contact WPK Secretary Kim Yong-sun made with Koichi Kato, LDP Policy Research Council chairman. This was all completely unknown to the SDPJ.

Since the end of October last year, the SDPJ had been planning a tripartite delegation visit to the DPRK. The party holds central positions in the administration and includes the prime minister in its ranks. They approached the DPRK about a delegation to be headed by General Secretary Wataru Kubo. The plan never materialized because the DPRK "rejected" (Taku Yamazaki's word) it.

Diet member Yuzuru Shimazaki, who chairs the SDPJ's Japan-DPRK Committee, was in the DPRK from the end of February to 3 March: "During my stay, the DPRK never told me anything about their contacts with the LDP."

Truly a bolt out of the blue: The SDPJ, with a long history of friendly relations with the DPRK, completely lost face. Shimazaki exploded, venting his anger all

around him. "The WPK and LDP Diet members are sending FAXes back and forth. They have done this right over the heads of the SDPJ and Chongnyon."

Sources say the FAXes were sent and received from Koichi Kato's offices.

Veteran journalists are dismissive: "So what? The North just wants to be sure it is talking to the party really in power. It was the same thing with the Kanemaru-Tanabe delegation. It was set up to look like Tanabe was escorted by Kanemaru, but in the end, the talks were between Kim Il-song and Kanemaru. Tanabe was shut out. Tanabe was mad as heck but.... This is just the same sort of thing.

"The North is well aware that YKK influence is expanding, and the group is ready to move into the heart of power. They are also quite aware that Takeshita's plans involve both the United States and the ROK. So they move to use Kato and Yamazaki, who are more than happy to go along."

What then is Secretary Kim really trying by insisting on a tripartite delegation? Says one individual involved in Japan-DPRK relations: "With Japan-DPRK negotiations at a low ebb, Secretary Kim has been removed from his post as International Department director and has been effectively kicked upstairs. If government level negotiations are resumed while he is in this predicament, he has no chance to redeem himself. So then, he hits on the ceremonial event of a Japanese delegation visiting the DPRK, to be followed by the return visit of a large DPRK delegation to Japan. Between the United States, the ROK, and Japan, he wants one party he can deal with. That would be Japan. It would drive a wedge into Japan-ROK relations."

The heavy hand of DPRK diplomacy is at work. This exchange of Japanese and DPRK delegations is viewed with some unease by the United States and ROK. The two nations have "expressed their concerns" to the Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry: "These are delicate times. Please do not make independent moves."

"Delicate times" refers to the arrangement for the signing of an agreement to supply light water reactors (unable to produce nuclear bomb material) before the DPRK resumes operations of its graphite reactor (capable of producing nuclear bomb material) on 21 April. While such a U.S.-DPRK agreement would be highly advantageous for the North, the North is not easily pleased. Knowing that Russia and Canada would also like to sell nuclear reactors to the DPRK, and with the issue of [the loss of] face, the North is insistent that "we do not want ROK-made reactors."

Behind the scenes, Japan is working to reassure the DPRK, saying: "The \$4 billion comes as a long term, interest-free loan. As the recipient of such a grant, you should not be making demands as to which reactors you want. You ought to swallow at least these conditions."

Also, it appears that the DPRK is in the midst of widespread food shortages. Before the tripartite delegation to the DPRK was even made official, the DPRK asked the Japanese: "Bring rice as your gifts."

Watanabe's Heading the Delegation as a "Kono Reelection Strategy"

Secretary Kim's official invitation to the three political groups arrived at Chongnyon on 11 March. Each party was immediately contacted by telephone, and the invitations were delivered in the order of Sakigake, SDPJ, and finally the LDP.

Chongnyon Executive Vice Chairman Ho Chong-man and others visited LDP headquarters and handed the invitation to Secretary General Yoshiro Mori. Secretary General Mori asked, as if to confirm: "We are planning to have Michio Watanabe head the delegation. Is that all right with you?"

Vice Chairman Ho answered: "Yes, that would be fine. We will welcome him with all our hearts."

The idea of nominating "Mitchi" Watanabe to head the tripartite delegation originated with Taku Yamazaki. With or without the tripartite delegation, Yamazaki had had plans for Watanabe to visit the DPRK since January this year.

"I wanted Mr. Watanabe, who is strong in Asian diplomacy and well versed in fiscal policies, to play a major role in this," said Yamazaki. One source explained further:

"Here is his strategy: Yamazaki sets up the stage for Watanabe. Watanabe will be caught up in this role, making him unable to maneuver for the prime minister's position. This will make Kono's reelection certain in the fall."

Politics is always at work. Angry at being left out in the cold, the SDPJ complained about Watanabe being named delegation head. They said: "After all, was it not Mitchi Watanabe who harshly criticized the joint tripartite statement?"

Kubo, who had expected he would be named head of the delegation, was especially indignant. "The North's invitation does not refer to the joint tripartite statement. The declaration had been treated like a sacred writ. If the WPK has changed its position, I, for one, want to know."

Kubo delayed the tripartite delegation's scheduled 16 March departure to the DPRK by saying the SDPJ "cannot participate." Many criticized Kubo's attitude. LDP Secretary General Mori said: "I do not know what Mr. Watanabe has been saying following the tripartite statement, but the DPRK certainly does. If the DPRK nonetheless accepts Mr. Watanabe [as delegation head], it indicates that the DPRK has changed its position drastically. This is common sense."

Former SDPJ Vice Chairman Shigeru Ito said: "What does he expect to accomplish by confirming? If they [DPRK] adhere to the terms of the tripartite statement, they cannot open the way for future diplomatic relations. However, as Mitchi Watanabe says, as a proud and independent nation, the DPRK is not likely to declare, 'oh, we put that on the back burner.' Their very refusal to bring up the agreement smells of some ploy or another. Wataru Kubo has no sense of diplomacy."

In addition to the SDPJ, the ROK is making its discontent known as well. On 11 March, President Kim Yong-sam reportedly "took up this issue and expressed his strong dissatisfaction" while at the UN Social Development Summit in Copenhagen.

His statements were made with the concern that the delegation's visit would be used as a pawn in DPRK diplomacy, undermining the ROK position. Yutaka Kawashima, director general of the Foreign Ministry Asian Affairs Bureau, immediately flew to Seoul to "explain."

On the afternoon of 13 May, Watanabe, Mori, and Koichi Kato visited Takeshita's office in the TBR building in Nagata-cho, Tokyo. The purpose of their visit was also to "explain." Takeshita reportedly said: "Efforts to seek understanding should be made not just on the government level, but also at the level of the individual Diet member."

It was evident Takeshita did not support the visit. Those close to Taku Yamazaki believe: "If the visit is called off, Kato and Yamazaki would totally lose face. The executives, Kono and Mori, would also suffer serious damage [to their credibility]. In the worst case, Kono could lose his reelection bid in the September poll."

However, matters have progressed without major problems, and the tripartite delegation is scheduled to leave 27 March.

"It was Prime Minister Murayama who suggested the delegation's visit, and he is looking forward to meeting with the DPRK envoy. As for Chongnyon, they serve under Secretary Kim's direction and cannot call off his plans. That is why they convinced the SDPJ. The LDP, SDPJ, and Sakigake will probably form their own separate delegations, with Watanabe heading the LDP delegation, Kubo or Issei Inoue heading the SDPJ delegation, and the three delegations will fly on the same plane."

What will be the visit's results?

Miyazawa Urges End to LDP Power Struggle

OW1704103595 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—In a soon-to-be-published book, former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indirectly urges a close associate to set aside personal political aspirations and support the chief

of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), sources close to Miyazawa said Monday [17 April].

In his book "The New Declaration of Protection of the Constitution," he acknowledges LDP President Yohei Kono as his favorite among his former faction members and says Kono is qualified to be a good political leader.

Miyazawa portrays Koichi Kato, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, as a man hard to come by and praises Kato's capabilities as a politician.

But he says Kato's era will come one day, an apparent suggestion that Kato support Kono's leadership in the LDP for now instead of turning against Kono, his longtime rival in the now defunct LDP faction led by Miyazawa.

Miyazawa, who served as premier until the summer of 1993, defends the LDP's formation last June of a coalition government with its Cold War era rival, the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], though he admits the decision was not necessarily best for the party.

He says the coalition government of socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is a "reasonable administration."

Miyazawa raised doubts about the former coalition government's abrupt formation last May of a joint parliamentary bloc excluding the SDPJ, which eventually led to the SDPJ's walkout of the then ruling union.

His statement is a clear-cut criticism of Ichiro Ozawa, currently secretary general of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) and a politician noted for his allegedly autocratic political approach.

The incident over the parliamentary group was a typical example of Ozawa's political management style based on the "overestimation of his ability," Miyazawa asserts.

Touching on Japan's defense policy, the former prime minister voices strong concern about the lack of an emergency legal framework that would deal with direct invasions from other countries.

"It is most important to accelerate the pace of preparing a legal system concerning contingencies" that include such natural disasters as the Jan. 17 great Hanshin earthquake, he states.

Miyazawa, 75, has been elected 10 times to the powerful House of Representatives from the No. 3 constituency of Hiroshima Prefecture, western Japan.

Second Stage Local Election Campaign Begins

OW1604024895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0128 GMT
16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Campaigning began Sunday [16 April] in the second stage of this month's nationwide local elections set for

April 23 for Tokyo ward chiefs and assemblies, and mayors and assemblies in many of the nation's cities except those where elections were held April 9.

Mayoral elections will be held in 117 cities in 38 prefectures, representing about 18 percent of the nation's 651 cities.

City assembly elections will be held in 383 cities, or about 59 percent of the total.

A total of 11,052 assembly seats in 46 prefectures, excluding Okinawa, are up for election.

In Tokyo, the posts of 15 ward chiefs are being contested, while ward assembly polls are being held in 22 wards covering 966 seats.

Campaigning will begin Tuesday for the heads of 612 towns and villages and for assemblies in 1,268 towns and villages across the country.

On April 9, the first round of voting in the nationwide local elections took place with voters deciding 43 of the country's 47 prefectural assemblies, excluding Ibaraki, Tokyo, Hyogo and Okinawa prefectures, and 10 major cities, excluding Kobe and Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, as well as 13 governors, including Tokyo, Osaka and Hokkaido.

Ministry Releases White Paper on Agriculture

OW1804054095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japanese consumers have become increasingly price-conscious in shopping for foodstuff, reflecting a continued economic slowdown and expansion of food imports, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said in an annual report released Tuesday [18 April].

The White Paper for the fiscal 1994 on agriculture discussed current agricultural conditions in view of the government's plan to implement a package of domestic farm reforms with budgetary appropriations of 6 trillion yen to meet the requirements of the Uruguay Round accord.

The report focused particularly on the characteristics of the food supply and demand system in Japan, including consumption, retailing, wholesaling, the food service industry, food processing and agricultural production.

The report said consumers are shopping for foods that provide a sense of value for money in addition to placing their customary emphasis on high quality.

Abnormal weather conditions over the last two years—a cool summer in 1993 and an extremely hot summer in 1994—led to emergency imports of rice and stimulated a highlighted interest in foodstuff among Japanese people.

The report said the yen's appreciation, liberalization of agricultural imports and a shortage brought on by extraordinary weather conditions have boosted Japan's imports of foodstuff.

Meanwhile, more consumers are requesting that information be provided regarding safety, place of origin and other particulars concerning imported foods, the report said.

A look at changes in the composition of the nation's diet by food item shows a large decrease in the proportion of rice from 48 percent to 26 percent between fiscal 1960 and fiscal 1993.

On the contrary, the percentages of fats and oils and animal products increased over the same period, showing the Japanese diet has been shifting to "western-style" foods, the official said.

From the supply side, the agricultural and food industries, which together are responsible for maintaining the food supply, marked a food market scale of 68 trillion yen in 1990, with the employment of 12 million in the industries, the report said.

Concerning structural changes over the past few years regarding the agricultural workforce, the report said there has been an upswing in the number of young people engaged in farming as a result of diminished nonfarming employment opportunities during the recent slowdown of the economy and variety of measures to encourage young farmers.

Regarding the effects of the great Hanshin earthquake in January on agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, the report estimates the total damage reached 90 billion yen as of March.

The ministry has established a disaster recovery scheme for the wholesale market and supplied long-term low interest loans for the restoration of food processing and sale facilities, the report said.

The report called for accelerating structural reforms in the agricultural sector and farming infrastructure, while enhancing levels of managerial skills of people in farm industries.

The report also said Japan's current plentiful, varied and well-balanced Diet should be maintained in the future by securing a stable food supply based on domestic production, combined with imports and reserves as appropriate.

On development of the nation's land, the report urged that efforts be made to maintain and create environmentally rich rural community areas that are open to city dwellers.

Mobile Phone Market To Swell to Y15.7 Trillion

OW1004103995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—The market for portable phones and other mobile communications tools will expand to 15.7 trillion yen in

2010 from about 1.7 trillion yen in 1994, a study panel said in a report Monday [10 April].

The panel, an advisory body to the chief of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry's Telecommunications Bureau, also said development of multimedia technology will create some 520,000 jobs by 2010, up from about 40,000 last year.

The projected explosive rise in the mobile phone market will be in line with an expected rapid advance in technology, which will allow for such services as video-on-demand and electronic newspapers, the report said.

The report forecast services will begin by 2000 for a mobile phone system that transmits information 180 times faster than current portable phones and that can send still pictures.

The panel stressed the need for the government to step up disclosure of available frequency bands as a way to promote research and development in the multimedia arena.

North Korea

ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Exercise Denounced

SK1804021295 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1222 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Where Do They Intend To Lead the Situation?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and the South Korean puppets are attempting to perpetrate another round of a provocative joint military exercise for northward invasion from late April to mid-May.

According to an announcement released by the enemies [choktul], the war exercise will reportedly involve a total of 13,000 U.S. and puppet soldiers, including some 1,300-strong U.S. troops reinforced from overseas bases to South Korea. Regarding this, the enemies raved that this resembles a so-called map exercise and that this would not threaten the North. However, this is nothing but a brazen-faced [paryomchihan] sophism to hide the criminal nature of the war exercise and to mislead public opinion.

The U.S. Defense Department revealed that the recent war exercise, held under the excuse of coping with contingencies on the Korean peninsula, will consist of receiving U.S. reinforcement troops and supplies, staging onward movement toward the front line, and integration with in-country forces and will evaluate the command capability of the South Korean-U.S. Command Forces. What the U.S. Defense Department has revealed clearly shows that the recent joint military exercise is a provocative war maneuver for northward invasion like the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercise.

The whole nation craves for the country's peace and peaceful reunification and the world invariably hopes for the successful implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework.

Peace and war maneuvers can never stand together. In as much as this is true, if the rascals are interested in the alleviation of tension on the Korean peninsula and the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, they should not stage a provocative joint military exercise that lays obstacles to this.

The joint military exercise which the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are attempting to stage is a deliberate and premeditated maneuver to slide a cross-bar into the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework which is in progress and to lead the situation to the brink of war. This also involves a criminal intention to interrupt the successful progress of the Pyongyang international sports and cultural festival that will be held in Pyongyang in late April amid the world people's great expectation and deep interest.

The U.S. conservative hard-line forces and the South Korean puppets are babbling about the alleviation of tension and peace in words. However, in reality, they are moving in the opposite direction.

They only pursue putting pressure on us with ceaseless war commotions and repressing us with military strength. In order to realize this ambition, the United States has put off its plan to cut down the size of the U.S. forces in South Korea even after the adoption of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, and is continuously reinforcing armed forces while conducting dialogue with us. Nowadays, the United States is even raising the issue of resuming the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercise.

All these facts show that the rascals' wicked scheme of unleashing northward invasion is the same as ever. By attempting to stage the provocative war exercise for northward invasion that harms fellow countrymen in collaboration with outside forces, the Kim Yong-sam ring revealed to the entire world that it is a heinous national traitor and the ugly war servant of the U.S. imperialists.

The reckless war commotions perpetrated by the U.S. bellicose classes and the South Korean puppets who try to lead the situation on the Korean peninsula onto the brink of war is a grave challenge to the aspiration and hope of the world's peace-loving people and should never be tolerated.

Even though we love and value peace, we are by no means afraid of war. We will never look on the rascals' criminal war maneuvers with folded arms and will retaliate a hundred fold and thousand fold on those who start a clumsy fire. The U.S. warmaniacs [chonjaeng kwangsinjadul] and the South Korean puppets should clearly realize our rock-solid revolutionary will and belief, and should stop at once their dangerous war maneuvers to aggravate the tension.

Society for Repatriation of ROK Prisoners Noted

SK1804101395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Korean residents in Germany reportedly

formed the Society for the Promotion of the Repatriation of Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae, unconverted long-term prisoners.

The members of the society decided to inform the Koreans in Europe of the inhumane persecution of unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea and solidarize with the organisations in the North and South of Korea and overseas Koreans as well as international organisations in the struggle for their repatriation to the North of Korea.

They declared they would fight against the South Korean puppets who block their repatriation and for an early abolition of the "National Security Law."

Repatriation of Long-Term Prisoners Demanded

*SK1804101095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006
GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The International Study Center for Church-Oriented Mass Media in Nepal issued a statement on April 4, urging the South Korean authorities to return Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and other unconverted long-term prisoners to the DPRK immediately.

It is inhumane of the South Korean authorities to make the former soldiers of the Korean People's Army suffer with no one to depend on in South Korea, far from returning them to their hometowns where their families and relatives wait although it is more than 40 years since the end of the war, the statement said.

The statement branded the South Korean authorities as villains ignorant of international law and elementary human rights as they imposed all sorts of sufferings on the old men for the mere reason that they refused "ideological conversion."

The Nigerian Committee for Support to the Peaceful Reunification of Korea in a statement said the repatriation of Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae to their hometowns is a very elementary humanitarian requirement.

It urged the South Korean authorities not to pay lip service to "humanitarianism" but to show sincerity in returning the unconverted long-term prisoners to their home villages as demanded by them.

UNESCO Technology Division Director Arrives

*SK1604091195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0851
GMT 16 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Boris Berkowski, director of the Engineering and Technology Division of the science sector of UNESCO, arrived here on April 15.

He was met at the airport by an official concerned.

Visits Kim Il-sung Statue

*SK1704053595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504
GMT 17 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Boris Berkowski, director of the engineering and technology division of the science sector of UNESCO, on April 15 visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-sung on Mansu Hill, Pyongyang, and laid a bouquet of flowers before the statue and made a bow.

Ho Urges No Preconditions to Talks With Japan

*SK1704052195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459
GMT 17 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), said in Tokyo on April 12 that the adoption of the agreement for the resumption of the DPRK-Japan talks without any precondition according to the historical three-party joint declaration was a great victory of the church-based independent diplomacy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In a lecture titled "On Historical Significance of the Four-Party Agreement Reached Thanks to the Church-Based Independent Diplomacy of Respected Marshal Kim Chong-il", he said that it is the resolution and will of the respected marshal that the three-party joint declaration cannot be spoiled because it is a document in which Japan apologized to the Korean people for the first time after the liberation of the country.

He further said:

The Japanese side tried to reach a "new agreement" with the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, leaving the three-party joint declaration only as a "historical fact". However, the talks ended in the adoption of an agreement reflecting the just stand of the DPRK as intended by the respected marshal.

Practically, the adoption of the agreement for the resumption of the DPRK-Japan talks means the beginning of the collapse of the so-called "cooperation system" of the United States, Japan and the South Korean puppets, Ho Chong-man stressed.

Resumption of Talks With Japan Accord Supported

*SK1804102995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022
GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The European regional headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification issued a statement on April 6, describing the adoption of the agreement for the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks as another diplomatic victory of the DPRK.

The Kim Yong-sam "government" is trying to meddle with the diplomatic affairs of the North, claiming that establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the U.S. and between the DPRK and Japan would disunite the South Korea-U.S.-Japan "cooperation system," the statement said, adding that this is a historical mistake that must be severely punished.

The South Korean "government" must atone for the anti-national crime it committed by signing the humiliating "South Korea-Japan agreement" in the past, it demanded.

The statement urged Japan to apologize and compensate for the criminal aggression and the colossal damages and disasters inflicted on the Korean people at the DPRK-Japan intergovernmental talks which will be resumed in the future.

KPA Friendship Delegation Returns From PRC

SK1804020395 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Korean People's Army [KPA] friendship visiting delegation led by KPA Colonel General Kim Chong-kak, which visited China, returned home by train on 14 April.

KPA Colonel General Chong Chang-yol and an official of the PRC Embassy to the DPRK welcomed the delegation at Pyongyang Station.

Premier Sends Greetings to Syrian Counterpart

SK1704053395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503
GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Kang Song-san, Premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Prime Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the independence of Syria.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would continue to develop in their favour.

Tajikistan Party Delegation, WPK Hold Talks

SK1604091995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0823
GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Talks between a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and a delegation of the Tajikistan Communist Party were held here Saturday.

Present on the Korean side were Secretary of the WPK Central Committee [C.C.] Hwang Chang-yop, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK Chi Chae-yong and other officials concerned and on the

opposite side was the delegation of the Tajikistan Communist Party headed by chairman of its Central Committee Shodi Shabdolov.

At the talks the sides informed each other of their party activities and discussed matters to develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and the two peoples and defend and advance socialism.

The talks proceeded in a comradely and friendly atmosphere.

More Reports on April Spring Friendship Festival

Officials View Performances

SK1804050795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Senior party and government officials appreciated joint performances of the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival which were given at theatres in Pyongyang from April 14 to 17.

Seeing the performances were Kang Song-san, Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Pyong-sik and other party and government cadres, working people, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan Kwon Sun-hui and other overseas compatriots and foreign diplomatic envoys in Korea.

The performers showed well that the great leader President Kim Il-song, who had dedicated all his life to the people with the idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" as his maxim, is always with the world's progressive people and will live forever.

And they highly praised Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is President Kim Il-song today and is successfully carrying forward to completion the revolutionary cause of chuche started by the president, as the great leader of the era of independence, sincerely wishing good health and a long life to him.

They also vividly represented the desire of the peoples to live a happy and worthwhile life in a new, peaceful and free world without war and subjugation, and their noble spiritual world.

At the end of the performances the cadres mounted on the stage to congratulate the performers on their successful performances.

Floral baskets in the joint name of the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK were conveyed to the performers.

Vice Premier Attends Exhibit

SK1804103095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—An exhibition of traditional Korean costumes was held in Pyongyang on Monday [17 April].

Seeing the exhibits were Vice-premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol, officials concerned and foreign and overseas Korean artistes attending the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

On display at the exhibition are some 200 Korean national clothes, in which the advantageous features of the Korean national clothes with a long history and tradition were represented well in line with the aesthetics of the time.

The exhibits include varieties of clothes, such as modern national stage costumes, woman's chogori (jacket) of colorful stripes, peculiar to the Korean nation, which was designed newly to suit the taste of the aesthetics of the time, bride's outfits and national clothes for each season.

In particular, the traditional Korean dress patterned, in an experienced artistic skill, after Kimilsongia and Kim-chongilia, the immortal flowers liked by the Korean people, drew the attention of the visitors for its beauty.

India Group Sponsors Gathering

SK1804050295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Korea-India Friendship Association sponsored a friendship gathering with Indian artistes at the Korea-India Friendship Pyongyang Wasan Senior Middle School on Monday.

Invited to the gathering were the members of the art troupe of the Natya Ballet Centre of India participating in the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival as well as Indian Ambassador to Korea Adya Nand Jha.

Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and vice-chairperson of the Korea-India Friendship Association, members of the friendship association and teachers and students of the school were present there.

Art circle members of the school and Indian artistes gave a joint performance before the gathering participants talked with one another, deepening friendly feelings.

Art Festival Concludes 18 Apr

SK1804102395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival which opened in Pyongyang on April 9 with a large attendance closed on the 18th.

The art festival has been held every year after it started in 1982.

Participating in the 13th art festival were famous artistes from scores of countries including international and

national contest prize winners, overseas Korean artistes and Korean artistes, more than 3,000 all told.

The participants put on the stage art pieces reflecting the ardent yearning of humankind for the great leader President Kim Il-song and singing of the boundless respect and reverence for the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They also presented art works reflecting the desire of the people to enjoy a happy life in an independent world free from domination and subjugation, aggression and war, and their noble spiritual world and traditional customs.

Attending the closing ceremony with the participants in the festival were Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council, working people and men of culture and art in the city, foreign diplomatic envoys and their embassy officials here.

A letter of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the participants in the festival was read at the closing ceremony.

Prizes were awarded to art organisations and artistes that demonstrated fine art talents in the festival.

A letter of thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the closing ceremony in the name of the participants in the festival.

Vice-premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol, who is the chairman of the Organizing Committee of the festival, said in his closing address that the participants in the 13th festival presented many works yearning for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who had appreciated joint performances and had pictures taken with participants in the festival in April every year, in spite of the urgency of his affairs, and thus left deep impressions on the Korean people.

In the festival deep respect for the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and wishes for his longevity were fully expressed, he noted, adding: "Through the festival, foreign artistes have developed the national culture, strengthened cultural exchange and cooperation among countries and actively encouraged the noble struggle of humankind for independence, peace and social progress."

"Foreign artistes should hold dear the good fruits of friendship, cooperation and bonds deepened in the festival and more loudly sing songs of independence, peace and friendship," he said.

An art performance was given at the end of the closing ceremony.

Nepalese Parliamentary Group Meets Yang Hyong-sop

SK1704052095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450
GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly,

Yang Hyong-sop, met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Sunday with the Nepalese parliamentary delegation headed by Dilip Kumar Shahi, vice-chairman of the National Council of Nepal, which paid a courtesy call on him. The head of the delegation said that the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the great chuche idea and devoted his whole life to the work for the popular masses, and noted: He was, indeed, a great revolutionary and an outstanding leader.

The revolutionary cause started by the respected leader will be accomplished by Comrade Kim Chong-il, another great leader, he stressed.

Meets With Yi Chong-ok

SK1804050395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly conversation with the visiting Nepalese parliamentary delegation headed by Dilip Kumar Shahi, vice-chairman of the National Council of Nepal, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 17.

The head of the delegation said that the exploits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who had led Korea with the clairvoyance, the great idea and leadership are shining in the world and will be everlasting in the future, too.

"We wish the Korean people greater success in their work for the reunification of the country and its prosperity and development under the wise guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as intended by Comrade Kim Il-song," stated the head of the delegation.

Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and conversed with the visiting delegation of the National Assembly of Zambia headed by Fitz Patrick Chuula, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, and with Dickson William Chokoma Matutu, chairman of the Zambia-Korea Friendship Association.

Brings Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK1804045195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the visiting Nepalese parliamentary delegation.

Dilip Kumar Shahi, vice-chairman of the National Council and head of the delegation, conveyed it to an official concerned.

Paper Commemorates 55th National Day of Denmark

SK1604091895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0853
GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 55th national day of Denmark.

A by-lined article of MINJU CHOSON says that now the Danish people are striving for development and prosperity of the country, and goes on:

Denmark pursues a peaceful foreign policy.

Though Korea and Denmark are far away from each other geographically they have had friendly relations for many years.

The Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop, and wish the Danish people great success in their efforts for the prosperity of the country.

Thai Government Economic Delegation Arrives

SK1804100695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—A Thai Government economic delegation led by Minister of Commerce Uthai Phimchaichon arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Yi Song-tae and officials concerned.

A party for the delegation was given today.

WPK Delegation Returns From India, Thailand

SK1804020495 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Hyon Chun-kuk, director of a department of the WPK Committee, which participated in the 15th congress of the Indian Communist Party Marxism, returned home by train on 14 April.

Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Adya Nand Jha, Indian ambassador to the DPRK, were on hand at Pyongyang Station to welcome the delegation.

Before its return, the delegation had visited Thailand.

Mongolian Delegation, Artists Hold Gathering

SK1604083095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820
GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—A friendship gathering with a delegation of the Kim Chong-il kindergarten of Mongolia and Mongolian artistes took place here Saturday under the sponsorship of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Association.

The delegation of the Kim Chong-il kindergarten of Mongolia headed by its superintendent T. Yanjin, the art troupe and acrobatic troupe of Mongolia participating in the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival and charge

d'affaires ad interim of the Mongolian Embassy in Pyongyang Janchivdorjiin Lombo and his embassy officials were present on invitation.

It was attended by Vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and Vice-chairperson of the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Association Chon Yon-ok, members of the association, teachers and pupils of the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Pyongyang Songyo Senior Middle School No.1.

A joint performance was given first and the participants chatted in a friendly atmosphere.

Mozambique Embassy Closes 'for Economic Reasons'

MB1704192695 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Maputo today, President Joaquim Chissano received in audience the DPRK ambassador to Mozambique. The ambassador informed the Mozambican head of state of his government's decision to close its embassy in Mozambique for economic reasons. He also thanked the Mozambican Government for continuing cooperation that dates far back and its contribution to efforts to reunify the Korean peninsula. President Joaquim Chissano said he understood the reasons that forced the DPRK to close its mission in Maputo. He said for similar reasons, Mozambique has a nonresident ambassador in Pyongyang. Chissano called on the DPRK to invest in Mozambique, offering bids for companies being privatized in the country.

Papers Observe Zimbabwe National Founding Day

SK1804104295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate by-lined articles to the 15th founding anniversary of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The independence of the country and the foundation of the republic were a historical event which made it possible for the Zimbabwean people who had been subjected to the colonial rule for many years to enjoy freedom and embark on the building of a new life, NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

The Zimbabwean Government, while pursuing a non-aligned policy, is opposing imperialism, racism and colonialism and striving to establish a new fair international economic order and develop friendly and cooperative relations with developing countries.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the Zimbabwean people's achievements in the building of a new society.

Friendship between Korea and Zimbabwe will continue to strengthen and develop in the future.

MINJU CHOSON says the Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two

countries will further strengthen and develop in the future in line with the idea of independence, peace and friendship and wish the Zimbabwean people greater success in their struggle for independent development and prosperity of the country.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Officials, Soldiers

SK1604082595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the scientists and technicians of the medical biology institute who made great achievements in scientific research for the promotion of the people's health.

He also extended thanks to the entire members of the Yi Kyong-yol Unit of the Korean People's Army [KPA] who are registering signal successes in the construction of the Chongnyu Bridge (second stage) and to soldiers and employees of different units who supported it, to the soldiers and employees of the Yi Tae-il Unit of the KPA and their families who distinguished themselves in the construction of the fish way of the west sea barrage, and to the officials and employees of the Tongdaewon garment factory of Pyongyang who successfully commissioned a production base of export goods.

Activities Continue for Kim Il-sung Anniversary

Loyalty Pledged to Kim Chong-il

SK1804045995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The party members and other working people in North Pyongan Province, Korea, held a rally on the occasion of significant April 15 and vowed to remain loyal to the idea and leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Kim Hak-pong, chief secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, made a report at the rally before speeches were made.

The reporter and speakers said the Korean people should arm themselves more firmly with the revolutionary idea of the respected leader President Kim Il-sung with the firm belief that he will always be with them, and should remain loyal to the idea and leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The highest honour of the Korean people is that they have Comrade Kim Chong-il at the head of their party, state and Army, they said, adding that only when they remain loyal to his idea and leadership can they definitely defend socialism, reunify the country and successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche.

They called on all people to consolidate the singlehearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks around

Comrade Kim Chong-il as firm as a rock and perform feats in implementing the party policies.

A resolution was adopted at the rally.

Foreign Papers Observe Occasion

SK1804101695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Foreign papers carried articles on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The Indian paper SAMACHAR POST carried an article titled "Praise for Peerless Great Man" with a portrait of President Kim Il-song.

The paper said that in the world there is no such great man of the century as President Kim Il-song who took the helm of the revolution from the 1920s and achieved great exploits in leading the Korean and world revolution for a long time without any deviation, and continued:

"He was great in his lifetime. Therefore his greatness has stood out in bolder relief after his death.

"The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the only great man who left most sacred marks imperishable on the chronicles with the 20th century.

"As he was the greatest man in the human history, his absolute dignity and greatness are being highly spoken of throughout the world, enjoying the praise from all people.

"Humankind will remember and follow the great man Comrade Kim Il-song forever."

The Bulgarian paper TRIBUNA edited a special writeup titled "Comrade Kim Il-song Will Always Live in Our Hearts" and "The 83rd Birth Anniversary of the Great Leader" carrying his portrait.

In an article the paper said that the whole life of Comrade Kim Il-song was a life of the prominent leader who made immortal contributions to the cause of human liberation under the banner of socialism and anti-imperialist independence, and added:

His creation of the *chuche* idea is one of the greatest exploits achieved by him for humankind.

The Russian papers BUMBARASH, TAMBOVSKI BOLSHEVIK [spelling of Russian papers as received], and the Indonesian paper INDONESIA OBSERVER and the Nigerian paper OBSERVER carried articles under the titles "President Kim Il-song Will Always Live in the Hearts of Progressive Mankind", "Brilliant Life of People's Leader" and so on.

Chongnyon Marks Anniversary

SK1804103795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—A meeting of Koreans in Japan to mark the

83rd birth anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song was held at the Korean House of Culture in Tokyo on April 14.

The meeting was attended by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), its Chief Vice-chairman Ho Chong-man, officials of Chongnyon and other Koreans in Japan.

The participants observed a moment's silence to the memory of Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

Chief Vice-chairman Ho Chong-man spoke at the meeting, following the address of Chairman Han Tok-su.

"The birth of the great leader was, indeed, the greatest fortune that fell upon the Korean nation in the 5,000-year-long national history since the appearance of Tangun and a great event that ushered in a new era of fundamental change in the destiny of humankind on the globe," Ho Chong-man said.

"Thanks to the wise leadership and paternal love of the great leader, Chongnyon has been able to strengthen and develop into a patriotic organization of *chuche* type that is steadfastly maintaining the dignity and rights of the nation and devoting itself to the prosperity and reunification of the country, with reliable officials capable of overcoming any trials and difficulties and with compatriots ardently loving the motherland and the nation rallied firmly," he noted.

He said, "To glorify the undying feats of the fatherly leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song for all ages, we must uphold the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il with loyalty."

A letter to Marshal Kim Chong-il was read at the meeting.

On the day, an art performance was given to mark the birth anniversary of Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

And, the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee on April 13 gave a party at the Korean Hall in Tokyo on the same occasion.

Foreign Officials Send Flowers

SK1804042995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409
GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—A bunch of flowers sent by Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma was laid before a portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The military assistant to the Indian president, upon authorization, laid the bunch of flowers before a portrait of President Kim Il-song in the DPRK Embassy in New Delhi and paid homage to him on April 15 to mark his birth anniversary.

The military assistant said the imperishable exploits performed by His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader, for the world and humankind will shine long and that he will always live in the hearts of humankind.

A floral basket was also laid before a portrait of President Kim Il-song in the name of Rafael Aguilar Talamantes, national chairman of the Central Committee of the Lazaro Cardenas Front Party for National Reconstruction of Mexico.

The international secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, authorized by the national chairman, laid the floral basket before a portrait of President Kim Il-song in the DPRK Embassy in Mexico and paid homage to him on April 14.

H.S. Surjeet, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), visited the DPRK Embassy in New Delhi on April 13 to mark the birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

He was accompanied by Sitaram Yechury, secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, and Ahmed Salim, member of the Central Committee of the Party, general secretary of the Democratic Youth Federation of India and member of parliament.

The visitors laid a floral basket before a portrait of President Kim Il-song and paid a silent tribute to his memory.

H.S. Surjeet said the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) expresses warmest revolutionary and noble tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song on his birth anniversary.

Om Prakash Mantri, secretary general of the all India Indo-Korean Friendship Association, visited the DPRK Embassy in New Delhi on the same day and laid a floral basket before his portrait and paid a silent tribute to his memory.

Japanese Groups Send Flowers

SK1504215795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—Floral baskets came from secretary general of the liaison council of society for the study of the chuche idea of Japanese teachers Masagazu Yokobori, the Chiba Prefectural society for the study of the chuche idea, and the Ichihara, Chiba Prefecture society for the study of Korean affairs, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

They were laid before the statue of President Kim Il-song standing on Mansu Hill here on April 14.

Written on ribbons hanging from the baskets were letters "His excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song will live forever".

Children's Union Camp Ceremony

SK1604090295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—This year's first camp life of the children's union members began at the Mangyongdae Children's Union Camp on the birthday of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

A ceremony of entry was held on April 15 at the camp associated with the immortal revolutionary history of the father generalissimo.

In his report at the ceremony, director of the camp Yi Kwang-su pointed to the unsparing love and solicitude shown by the father Generalissimo Kim Il-song and respected General Kim Chong-il for the rising generation and said that the general recently sent various facilities to the camp for the extramural education of school children who will take the destiny of the country and the nation on their shoulders.

The reporter said that campers should more deeply grasp the leadership feats of the father generalissimo and the respected general through their visit to revolutionary sites and discussions, mountaineering, art, sports and other activities and consolidate what they learned at school.

Sariwon Company Begins Operation

SK1804015995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Kilsongpo joint venture company in Sariwon started operation on 13 April on the occasion of the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday. The Kilsongpo joint venture company, which started operation according to the agreement between our country's Kyongam Trading Company and China's Liaoning Trading Corporation for Materials for Minority Nationals, will contribute to guaranteeing a more civilized life for the agricultural workers and the cultural level of agricultural work.

The ceremony to start operation of the joint venture company was held on the spot on 13 April. Portraits of the respected and beloved leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song and the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il were placed among the masses, and slogans reading "Hurrah for the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Hurrah for the glorious Workers Party of Korea!" were set up. A slogan reading, "The great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song eternally stays with us," was also set up.

(Kim Chin-ok), chairman of the Administrative and Economic Committee of North Hwanghae Province, and other functionaries concerned were on hand with the employees of the joint venture company. (Qin Yufa), councillor of the PRC Embassy to the DPRK; employees of the PRC Embassy; and (Qin Tao), general manager of

the Liaoning Trading Corporation for Materials for Minority Nationals, participated in the ceremony.

Speeches were made at the ceremony which started with the singing of songs of General Kim Il-song and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. After the ceremony, the participants looked over the company's manufacturing process.

'Mangyongdae Prize' Contests Held

SK1704150695 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502*
GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—"Mangyongdae Prize" sports contests which opened on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song, are going on with success.

Field and track, marathon, soccer, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, shooting and other 60 events are competed.

The contests are the largest tournament of their kind in Korea to significantly commemorate the birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

The annual event dates back to 1969 and lasts dozens of days around April 15 in Pyongyang and other big cities.

It is a good occasion for the athletes to fully demonstrate their technique they cultivated under the loving care of the party and the leader and beat the records.

People's sportsman Kim Myong-nam, a weight lifter from the Kigwancha (Locomotive) Team, and other two athletes beat the world records in five events of the tournament last year.

48 boys and girls set national records in field and track, shooting and other 47 events.

In the "Mangyongdae Prize" sports contests held last year ten odd boys and girls beat the world records in weightlifting, archery and other events and hundreds of players whitewashed the national records in field and track, speed skating and other events.

Revolutionary Achievement Landed

SK1704143195 *Pyongyang Korean Central*
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0935 GMT 14 Apr 95

[Unattributed talk: "The Revolutionary Achievement Made by the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is an Immortal Achievement To Shine for Ages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Korean [choson] people and the progressive people around the world are marking the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. On the great leader's birthday, our people are bearing endless yearning and respect, and are recalling the revolutionary achievement of the leader [suryong] who devoted his entire life to the times and the revolution, to the fatherland and the people. Our people are filled with the flaming resolution to follow the leadership of the great

party and to resolutely defend, adhere to, and further glorify the leader's [suryong] achievements.

There are many great men in the world whose achievements have been handed down for generations. However, there has never been a leader [yongdoja] or a great man in any period of history in the East or West with such an immortal achievement as the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. The revolutionary achievement of the great leader shines brilliantly as an immortal great achievement to be handed down forever, not only to the people of our times but also to the people of generations to come.

The revolutionary achievement of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an achievement made for the people together with the people. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught: The leader's [suryong] achievement is made for the people and together with the people. This is why the leader's [suryong] achievement is an immortal achievement to shine for a long time in the people's hearts.

The immortality of a great man's achievement depends importantly on how much it contributed to the people. Only a revolutionary achievement that truly contributed to implementing the independence of the popular masses, who are the main force of history and the propellers of social development, can be an immortal achievement that will not fade with time but will live forever in the people's hearts. Our people's great father Comrade Kim Il-song always regarded the people as heaven, and devoted his entire life to the freedom and happiness of the people.

He shouldered by himself the destiny of the fatherland and the nation; tided over the anti-Japanese sea of blood and sea of fire, both unprecedented in history; salvaged our people from the destiny of colonial slaves; walked along the difficult and complicated new road to found the country and the smoky road to the front; established a new fatherland for the people; and firmly defended the independence of the fatherland and the freedom and happiness of the people. During the days of the postwar recovery construction and socialist march, he walked in the ashes and smoky inroads of the plants; treaded dawn dew on farms; solved the difficult problem of the people's food, clothing, and shelter; and built the strong self-reliant people's economy and the most superior popular masses-centered prosperous socialist paradise in this land.

Since the early days when he took the road of revolution until the last moments of his life, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song conducted on-the-spot guidance without any rest for as long as 70 years; the passage spans thousands and tens of thousands of ri. The passage was a glorious passage engraved with sleepless and restless efforts and brilliant achievements for the people's freedom and happiness.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song never detached himself from the people, but was always with the people. He had firm faith in the strength of the popular masses

and wisely led the revolution and construction by inspiring their limitless strength and creative wisdom. Through the entire course of our revolution, all lines and policies presented by the great leader reflected the demand and aspiration of our people and received the absolute support and consent of the popular masses. The lines and policies were brilliantly implemented by the people's high loyalty and creative wisdom, erecting numerous precious creations on this land for the people.

Indeed, the revolutionary achievement of the great leader [suryong] is an achievement consolidated along with the people because the great leader always worked with the people for the prosperity of the fatherland and the boundless happiness of the people, sharing life, death, joy, and sorrow with the people. This is why the revolutionary achievement of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the leader's esteemed name will live in the people's hearts and will become immortal generation after generation, as long as the fatherland and the people exist.

The revolutionary achievement of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is being resolutely defended, safeguarded, developed, and enriched by the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, Comrade Kim Chong-il. The achievement of the leader [suryong] can be safeguarded and glorified only by the successor, who is endlessly loyal to the leader [suryong]. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is skilled both in literary and military arts and who possesses loyalty and filial piety, took succeeding and completing the great leader's [suryong] revolutionary cause as his lifetime mission; has been endlessly faithful to the leader's [suryong] ideology and leadership; and has exerted unceasing effort and labor to glorify the leader's [suryong] achievement in leadership.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il underwent sleepless and restless pondering and research to formulate, deepen, and develop the great leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology as the guiding ideology of our party and our revolution forever. He brilliantly implemented the leader's [suryong] chuche-based party-founding ideology and theory, and strengthened and developed our party—the Workers Party of Korea—into a mighty chuche-type revolutionary party. He administered benevolent politics and all-embracing politics; developed our society into a revolutionary grand family with single-hearted unity; accelerated the socialist construction; and unfolded a golden age in all aspects of politics, economics, and culture.

Particularly, upholding the great leader's [suryong] chuche-oriented army-building cause, the great, sagacious General Kim Chong-il wisely organized and led the military work as well as strengthened and developed our People's Army into an unrivaled ever-victorious revolutionary Armed Forces fully prepared politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically. He made the beautiful ethos of the ideology give precedence to military affairs and the tradition of Army-people unity bloom in full throughout society.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il effected a new upsurge in revolution and construction and accelerated the implementation of the chuche cause with his outstanding ideology and extraordinary leadership. This is indeed a lofty example of upholding the great leader's [suryong] ideology and leadership, and of brilliantly glorifying the leader's [suryong] achievement in leadership.

The creations erected by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il reflect the people's unanimous opinion and desire: the Tower of the Chuche Idea shining high along the banks of the Taedong River in Pyongyang; the Arch of Triumph at the foot of Moran-bong; Kim Il-song Square; the Wangjesan revolutionary historical site; and the Grand Monument of Samjiyon display their pride as great monumental edifices that will hand down the great leader's [suryong] revolutionary achievement for thousands and tens of thousands of generations.

Last year, when our people could not resist the grief of unexpectedly losing the fatherly leader, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who possesses the highest loyalty toward the great leader [suryong], presented the revolutionary slogans "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is with us forever," and "Let us more thoroughly arm ourselves with the revolutionary ideology of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" These are the guidelines we should grasp in order to complete the leader's [suryong] revolutionary cause.

Warmly implanted in the slogans are the iron-like will and indomitable faith of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who wants to endlessly consummate the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary cause by firmly adhering to his revolutionary ideology as our party's eternal guiding ideology; it is the ardent desire of our people, who want to uphold the leader [suryong] forever.

Because of the presentation of the slogans of faith as well as the slogans of loyalty and dutifulness, the great leader's [suryong] ideology and leadership achievement have been adhered to and shine more resolutely. Also, we are able to constantly uphold the leader's [suryong] behest and his intent during his lifetime, as well as to thoroughly implement them.

Practically, under the energetic leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, the work to uphold the benevolent image [yongsang] of the great leader [suryong], who brightly smiles, were actively carried out in various areas across the country, including Pyongyang, amid the people's warm zeal.

Today, the work to build the party-founding memorial tower, the second phase of the Chongnyu Bridge, and the No.2 Kumnung Tunnel are being carried out vigorously. This clearly shows how the great general [widaehan changgun] concentrated his major effort on eternally glorifying the leadership achievement by upholding the leader

[suryong] forever as desired by the people, and by fully glorifying the leader's [suryong] plans during his lifetime.

Truly, because the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il exists, upholding the chuche revolutionary cause with a loyalty based on his extraordinary wisdom and outstanding leadership, and because he leads our party and people, the great leader's [suryong] revolutionary cause can be safeguarded and adhered to purely and resolutely, and will shine brilliantly. It can even be handed down to the next generations.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary cause is the cause he achieved for the people while sharing joy and sorrow with the people during his entire life. Because the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il—who is like the leader [suryongnim kudaero isin] in ideology, leadership, virtue, and ethos—glorifies the achievement, this becomes an immortal and great achievement that will be remembered forever in the hearts of the people and that will shine generation after generation.

Upholding the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il—who adheres to and eternally glorifies the revolutionary cause of the leader [suryong], who pioneers the revolutionary road for the first time, and who achieves while leading the people—in the highest place [choegosuwi] of the party and the revolution is our people's great honor and maximum fortune.

By upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and by being loyal to his leadership, our people will surely hasten the national reunification cause and the chuche revolutionary cause the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song ardently desired to achieve during his lifetime.

Administration Council Reception

SK1604090895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844
GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The Administration Council of the DPRK gave a reception Saturday evening for the participants in the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song (April 15, 1912).

Foreign artistes and overseas Korean artistes participating in the festival were present on invitation.

Premier Kang Song-san and Vice-president Pak Songchol who are Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and other officials concerned were present.

Speeches were made there.

Art Performances Mark Occasion

SK1604082995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0817
GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Art performances to mark the 83rd birth

anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song were held at parks, pleasure grounds and theatres.

They were held at the Nungna islet pleasure ground, Kaeson youth park, before the Ulmil pavilion on Moran Hill, the Mt. Taesong pleasure ground, Mangyongdae pleasure ground, on the promenade of River Taedong and at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Ponghwa Art Theatre, the state theatre and other theatres in Pyongyang.

Artistes of different art troupes and art propaganda corps and acrobats put on stages choruses, solos, dances, poems, dramas, acrobatics, juggleries and witticisms, representing the undying feats performed by President Kim Il-song for the time and the revolution, the motherland and the people and the singlehearted unity of the Korean people closely rallied around the Workers' Party of Korea.

Colorful art performances also took place at theatres and cultural halls in each province, city and county, including the Hamhung Grand Theatre, which praise the revolutionary activities, leadership exploits and greatness of President Kim Il-song and show the unshakable faith and will of the Korean people to carry to accomplishment the cause of socialism and the revolutionary cause of chuche true to the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Meanwhile, an "Evening of April" of the youth and students in Pyongyang under the title "The Great Leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us" was held at the Kim Il-song Square on Saturday.

Flowers Planted at Mansu Hill

SK1704051895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502
GMT 17 Apr 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—A large number of beautiful flowers sent by prominent figures and progressive peoples of the five continents of the world were transplanted on Mansu Hill on the occasion of the 83rd birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Flowers of various colours including tulip continue to come into bloom stage by stage.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received flower seeds and roots of several hundred kinds as gifts from various countries after July last year. They are now blooming or are pushing new shoots.

Those who sent them as a token of their deep sorrow at the death of President Kim Il-song include Nina Andreyeva, general secretary of the Central Committee of the All-union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, Eric Trevett, general secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Great Britain, David Kibirango, advisor to the president of the Republic of

Uganda and chairman of the Uganda-DPRK Friendship Association, and other prominent figures and progressive peoples.

Mozambican Party Leader Sends Gift

SK1804050595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by secretary general of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party (the Mozambique Liberation Front Party) Feliciano Salomao Gundana.

Handing the gift to the Korean ambassador to Mozambique on April 12, the secretary general said he presented flower seeds to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with deep reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song on his birth anniversary, hoping that the flower will come into full bloom around his native home and statues.

Indian Party Displays Kim Il-song Portrait

SK1804050095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—A ceremony of hanging a portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song was held in the building of the headquarters of the Communist Party of India in New Delhi on April 13.

Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, said at the ceremony that the portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always give his party members encouragement in the struggle for building communism, an ideal society of humankind.

He stressed that respected Comrade Kim Il-song was the greatest man with deep human love and noble comradeship and an outstanding statesman with perfect view on world politics.

He said that he will increase in every way the fighting efficiency of his party, the vanguard of the working class of India, and further develop the friendly relations with the Workers' Party of Korea, as taught by respected Comrade Kim Il-song.

Kim Il-song Revolutionary History Display Opens

SK1604085995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0826 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Six new rooms comprehensively and systematically showing the glorious and brilliant revolutionary activities the great leader President Kim Il-song energetically conducted till the last moment of his life, were arranged and opened to the public at the Korean Revolution Museum.

The rooms broadly and deeply show his immortal feats in wisely leading the struggle for the complete victory of socialism (the 1980s-the 1990s) and national reunification (the 1980s-the 1990s).

On display there are pictures, revolutionary mementos and many materials showing the revolutionary activities of President Kim Il-song who wisely led the vigorous struggle of the Korean people for complete victory of socialism and their sacred struggle for national reunification.

Pictures, revolutionary mementos and other materials showing the immortal revolutionary exploits performed by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in this period are also exhibited there.

Kim Il-song's Idea Hailed as Guiding Ideology

SK1804072395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0943 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Unattributed talk: "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is a Prominent Thinker and Theorist Who Created a New Guiding Idea in the Era of Independence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greeting significant April, our people resolved to turn deep sorrow of losing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, whom we greeted and upheld for the first time in several thousand years of history, into strength and courage. We are piously recalling the brilliant life which the great leader [suryongnim] dedicated to the people and his great achievements.

The most brilliant achievement made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in our revolution and global revolution is creation of the immortal *chuche* idea, the guiding ideology of our era.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: Reflecting the aspiration of the popular masses and the demand of the time at an early date, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the *chuche* idea and thus provided a new guiding ideology in our era, the era of independence.

The passing of time demands a new revolutionary ideology, and the revolutionary idea of the working class is to be created by the outstanding leader of the working class.

The *chuche* idea—men-centered revolutionary philosophy—is the revolutionary ideology created by the great leader reflecting the demand of the new era.

When the great leader [suryongnim] was embarking on the road of revolution, a new turn was effected in the struggle of the working class and of the popular masses against exploitation and oppression, and a demand was raised for elucidating the new way of struggle.

Based on his deep insight into the basic demand of the dawning new era—the era of *chuche*—at the early stage of his revolutionary struggle, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the *chuche* idea. Thus, he made an

immortal achievement in opening a new stage in the development of the working class' revolutionary idea.

By creating the *chuche* philosophy—a man-centered outlook of the world—the great leader made a historic contribution to accomplishing a new outlook of the working class of the world.

The precedent-setting philosophy of the working class eliminated unscientific and reactionary elements from materialism and dialectics in the previous era in order to emancipate the working class, which had newly emerged on the stage of history, from an outdated idealistic and metaphysical outlook of the world, and inherited and developed their reasonable substantive contents, thus presenting dialectic materialism.

Dialectic materialism elucidated the general lawfulness of the material nature [*mulchilsong*] of the world and of the development of its movement by assuming the issue of relations between material and consciousness as the basic issue of philosophy. Thus, it established a scientific and philosophical outlook of the world for the first time in history.

The establishment of a scientific outlook of the world was an epoch-making event in the development of a revolutionary outlook of the world by the working class. However, it did not mean the accomplishment of development of the outlook of the working class of the world.

The passing of time demands the development of a philosophical outlook of the world. In the era of independence, not only the working class in few advanced capitalist countries, but also all the oppressed and ill-treated popular masses have emerged as the masters of their destinies. Philosophy in this era also demanded precise elucidation of the position and role of the people as the masters of their destinies.

Reflecting this demand, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, by newly presenting the position and role men play in the world as the fundamental problem of philosophy, boldly has done away with the old conception that regarded the relationship between material and consciousness as the fundamental problem of philosophy for several thousand years and, thus, has renovated anew the fundamental problem of philosophy.

Based on his new elucidation of the inherent characteristics of human beings as a social existence which is characterized by an independent stand and attitude, creativity, and consciousness, the great leader [*suryong*] has creatively elucidated the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything.

Based on his elucidation of man's position and role in the world and man's inherent characteristics, the great leader [*suryong*] has elucidated anew a view of the world, the main content of which includes the inevitability of the world being dominated and reformed by man, and the viewpoint and stance of seeing the world centered on

man. Thus, he has established a man-centered philosophical view of the world that teaches the fundamental way of working out man's destiny.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has brought about a new turn not only in a philosophical view of the world, but also in a view of society and history.

The philosophy of the precedent-setting working class established the materialistic conception of history by defining as its main task the wiping away of the idealistic and metaphysical view of society and history and to carry through the principles of dialectical materialism even in the fields of society and history and by elucidating that, like nature, society, as well, changes and develops according to the general inevitability of the developing material world. However, it failed not only to correctly explain the essential disparity between natural movement and social movement, but also to elucidate the inherent inevitability of social and historic movement.

The new era has presented that it is a most important demand in establishing the working class' view on society and history to elucidate the inherent inevitability of the sociohistorical movement with the popular masses as their main force. This historic task has been brilliantly solved by the creation by the great leader [*suryong*] of a *chuche*-oriented view of history.

The great leader [*suryong*] has embodied in society and history the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and man decides everything and the principle that man is a social being with an independent stand and attitude, creativity, and consciousness. In this way, the great leader [*suryong*] has elucidated anew the principle that the popular masses are the main force of history and that the sociohistorical movement is the popular masses' independent, creative, and deliberate movement. As a result of this, a *chuche*-oriented view of history, which elucidates the essence, character, and driving force of the sociohistorical movement with the popular masses as the main force, has been established.

Next, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has presented a revolutionary theory centered on the popular masses and, thus, made the immortal contribution of completing a revolutionary theory of the independence era.

The revolutionary theory presented by the great leader [*suryong*] is the *chuche* revolutionary theory that has been newly elucidated and monolithically systematized based on the *chuche* idea.

The basic characteristics of respected and beloved leader's [*suryong*] revolutionary theory are that the theory is a revolutionary theory centered on the popular masses and is the strategy and tactic of the revolution based on the role of the popular masses.

What occupies an important position in the revolutionary theory presented by the great leader [*suryong*] is precisely the theory on national liberation, that is, class liberation. The question of national liberation, that is,

class liberation is an ardent question that awaits its solution in our times during which the people of the colonial and semicolonial countries—which occupy an absolute majority of the world—are vigorously launching into the struggle for independence.

By developing a revolutionary theory centered on the popular masses the great leader [suryong] has elucidated, first, the unique theory, strategy, and tactic of the anti-imperialist national liberation struggle, the highlight of which stresses that the people of colonial countries should not wait for their suzerain states to win victory in their socialist revolution, but should wage the struggle to achieve national sovereignty with their own strength.

As a result of this, the revolutionary theory on national liberation presented by the practice of the revolution has been newly established, and, consequently, the new beginning of the revolution of national liberation against colonialism has been opened.

The great leader [suryong] has also elucidated anew the theory on the democratic revolution carried out by those people who have carried out the task of the revolution of national liberation and the theory on the socialist revolution in particular.

The great leader [suryong] has presented for the first time in history the excellent ideology that if the three revolutions are added to the people's regime based on the immortal *chuche* idea, communism will be born.

With the great leader's presentation of the unique theory that if the three revolutions are added to the people's regime, communism will be born; the basic strategy, line, and method that should be firmly grasped in socialist, communist construction have been clearly expounded, and, at the same time, a most correct understanding of the revolution has been established. Thus, a mighty weapon that makes it possible to consummate the communist cause to the end under the banner of the continuing revolution has been provided.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has also created the *chuche*-oriented leadership method, thus, registering the immortal achievement of providing a mighty weapon that makes it possible to accelerate the revolution and construction in the era of independence.

The working class' revolutionary cause is the serious and awesome struggle that can enjoy victory only when the broad popular masses participate. Therefore, the question of establishing the leadership method in organizing and mobilizing the popular masses into the performance of the revolutionary task becomes a vital question related to the destiny of the revolution.

Based on his deep insight into the demands of the developing revolution in our times, the great leader [suryong] has given overall and creative answers to the problems arising in leading the revolution and construction, including the principle of leading the masses, the revolutionary work method, and the people-oriented

work habits. The leadership method created by the great leader is the *chuche* leadership method that enables the popular masses to occupy the position of being the master and to play the role as the master in the revolution and construction.

The leadership method is also a most scientific, revolutionary, and communistic work method that makes it possible to achieve single-hearted unity of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses and to vigorously accelerate socialist, communist construction.

By creating the theory on the *chuche*-oriented leadership method the great leader [suryong] has completed the working class' revolutionary ideology as a great revolutionary doctrine in the era of independence.

Indeed, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the most prominent ideologist and theorist in our times who has completed the working class' revolutionary ideology into the great revolutionary doctrine that guides the era of independence by newly developing all ideological and theoretical problems arising in the revolution and construction, ranging from the working class' view of the world to the leadership method, centered on man, that is, the popular masses.

There will be only victory and glory on the road ahead of our party and people who are vigorously fighting, more thoroughly arming themselves with the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary ideology—which is the ever-victorious revolutionary banner—and upholding the great leader [yongdoja] Kim Chong-il's leadership with loyalty.

Council Vice Premier Attends Workshop Initiation

SK1804024095 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 13 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people, has sent his thanks to the workers of the ready-made clothes workshop of the Tongdaewon Clothing Plant who have wonderfully built their workshop.

The ready-made clothes workshop, which has been newly built thanks to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's great care, is a modern ready-made clothes workshop with a floor space of about 4,000 square meters. With the establishment of this workshop, the production capacity of this plant is expected to increase; and it will be possible to more thoroughly accomplish the party's trade-first policy.

A meeting was held on the spot on 13 April to convey the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's thanks and to begin the operations of the ready-made clothes workshop. Comrade Kim Pok-sin, vice premier of the Administration Council; relevant functionaries, including Kang Hyon-su, responsible secretary of the Pyongyang municipal party committee and chairman of

the Pyongyang municipal People's Committee; and workers of the plant attended the meeting.

Amid the enthusiastic applause of the meeting's participants, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's thanks were conveyed at the meeting to the workers of the plant who highly displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance to wonderfully build the ready-made clothes workshop in a short period of time.

Manager Pak Ok-chun then delivered a report.

[Begin Pak Ok-chun recording] All the party members and workers who are filled with the firm conviction and optimism in the victory of revolution, are achieving new revolutionary upsurges every day in the struggle to further enrich our country, our fatherland, to further glorify the honor as the countrymen of the great nation of Kim Il-song, while keeping deep in their heart the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's historic handwritten letter of 1 January 1995.

Today, in the midst of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's thanks and his warm care, we are grandly holding the ceremony to begin the operations of the ready-made clothes workshop, at a time when all the party members and workers across the country are achieving new revolutionary upsurges in the socialist economic construction with a view to greeting the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's 83d birthday with a high level of political zeal and with shining labor exploits.

Even though he is so busy taking care of the general work of the party and the state, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has always extended his warm hand to lead those in the working class of our plant with parental love, while placing his firm trust in our plant workers.

Reflected in the proud history of the development which the plant has achieved over the past 30-odd years—since April 1958 when the plant began operations—are the parental love and efforts of the respected and beloved leader [suryongnim] and the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il who have devoted their entire life to the people.

In the past, our plant barely produced consumer goods with several tens of treadle-sewing machines. But, now, it has developed into an export clothing plant wonderfully equipped with a set of ultramodern facilities installed in a modern high-rise building, thereby making large contributions to further glorifying our-style socialism centered around the popular masses.

Full of the mettle and revolutionary fervor which the party gave to them, all the party members and workers in the plant have surpassed the ever-rising people's economic goals each year in the past 30-odd years and today, dedicated a modern building with a floor space of 25,000 square meters on the plant's own strength, thus increasing their production capacity one hundred fold.

On 4 May 1991, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a precious teaching on the need to increase the plant's production capacity; he himself solved (the question of materials); and he provided benevolent love and careful guidance so that we could build a new ready-made clothes workshop with a floor space of about 4,000 square meters on the fifth floor.

All workers in the plant, who have always displayed only honor as victors in the accomplishment of the great leader's [suryongnimui] teachings and the party's policies, have completed the construction of the ready-made clothes workshop with a floor space of 4,000 square meters on the fifth floor during a short period of time spanning (two) years by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, while surpassing the ever-rising people's economic goals each year. [end recording]

She continued to stress the need to thoroughly accomplish the party's revolutionary economic strategy, while making it a matter of conviction, conscience, morals, and everyday routine to be loyal to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

She also stressed the need to normalize production at a high level by taking good care of the facilities for the new ready-made clothes workshop and always operating them at full capacity.

A red cloth, which was draped over the entrance of the workshop, was cut. The participants watched over the production process of the newly constructed ready-made clothes workshop.

South Korea

North Delegate Opposes NPT Indefinite Extension

SK1804105595 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0950 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Delegate [pudaepyo] Kim Su-man of North Korea, who is attending the meeting to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, stated that the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty can be decided on only if the five nuclear powers are the first to reduce their weapons. Therefore, he hinted that North Korea opposes an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as presented by the United States.

PRC Asked To Support North-U.S. Accord

SK1804073295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0724 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam stressed Tuesday [18 April] that North Korea should dispel

suspicious about its nuclear development program by faithfully implementing the nuclear framework it agreed to with the United States.

Meeting Qiao Shi, visiting chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, at Chongwadae [presidential offices], Kim expressed his hope that "China will persuade North Korea more actively for the sake of improved inter-Korean relations and a resolution of the North's nuclear issue," Presidential Spokesman Yun Yeo-chun said.

Qiao, one of China's three highest ranking leaders, arrived in Seoul Monday for a six-day visit at the invitation of National Assembly Speaker Hwang Nak-chu.

Kim noted the rapid progress achieved between the two countries, in the areas of economy and trade as well as others, in less than three years since the opening of diplomatic relations. "Thanks particularly to the opening of direct air services last December, our two countries have become close neighbors," Kim was quoted as saying.

Yun quoted Qiao as responding, "As peace on the Korean peninsula is essential for not only Korea but also the world, China will exert its utmost."

"Since the diplomatic normalization, exchanges of political leaders between the two countries have become frequent and rapid progress has been made in areas of economic cooperation as well," Qiao added. "It is expected that such relations will further expand in the future."

The meeting was followed by a luncheon where the two leaders were joined by their wives.

U.S. Firm's Role in Building Reactors Viewed

SK1804115495 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
1100 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK and the United States have reportedly decided that a U.S. company, which will take charge of the supervision [kamni] of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organizations [KEDO], will also take exclusive charge as [chondam] the first contact necessary for building a light-water reactor in North Korea.

A diplomatic source in Seoul stated today that because the style of light-water reactors to built in North Korea will be ROK-style, the two sides decided to formulate such plans in consideration of North Korea, which is reluctant to hold direct contact with the ROK.

However, the source stated that the program coordinator—the U.S. company that will take charge of the supervision—is only an employee of KEDO and that its role will be limited to supervising the process of building light-water reactors. He said, therefore, that the ROK's leading role cannot be infringed.

As regards the issue of selecting the ROK as the main contractor, the source stated it is technologically impossible to select the ROK, the United States, and Japan as a joint main contractor, or to select in a formal manner [hyongsiksang] the United States as the main contractor, given North Korea's objection. This cannot be considered. He added that for the ROK to play the role as the main sole contractor cannot be changed.

ROK, U.S. Said 'Firm' on ROK-Style Reactors

SK1804091195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are firm in their position that the light-water nuclear reactors to be provided to North Korea should be South Korean-made reactors and that KEDO [Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization], the international consortium for the reactor project, must retain the right to select the main contractor for the supply of the reactors to the North, according to a high-ranking government official here Tuesday [18 April].

During the meeting on the North Korean nuclear issue to be held between expert-level officials of North Korea and the United States in Berlin Tuesday, the U.S. side will adhere to its position that the reactors to be provided to the North should be the same as Korean-made Ulchin Nos. 3 and 4 and that South Korea should play a central role in the management of the light-water reactor project, according to the official.

"The reason why we should stick to such a position is that we want to maintain peace and security on the Korean peninsula and, further, promote inter-Korean relations," said the official who wished to remain unnamed.

If South Korea and the United States could not force the North to accept the joint position of the South and the United States during the Berlin talks, North Koreans may be led to think that they could solve all the problems through bilateral talks with the United States without ever having to consult with South Koreans, said the official.

South Korea cannot abandon its role as the main player in deciding the destiny of the Korean peninsula, asserted the official.

The role of the program coordinator in the light-water reactor project will be to supervise all the works involved in the provision of the reactors to the North in place of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) which will be staffed by less than 40 members with limited technological knowledge, said the official explaining the role of the program coordinator which the South Korean Government has in mind.

The program coordinator will also serve as the primary "point of contact" with North Korea in some minor

parts of the works related to the provision of the reactors to the North, said the official, who added that the program coordinator will not, however, have any political negotiations with the North.

The role of the program coordinator will be strictly limited to commercial duties within the authority mandated by KEDO, said the official.

North Koreans, however, reportedly demanded that a North Korean firm should be the party to select the main contractor for the provision of the reactors to them and that, otherwise, an international consortium should be formed for the selection of the main contractor for the reactor project.

North Korea is also said to have maintained that Americans, in that case should take the leading role in the consortium, starkly refusing to accept South Korea's central role in the project.

The United States will meet with North Korea in Berlin late Tuesday in its capacity as representative of KEDO as mandated by the Geneva agreement, said the official.

The United States delegation will therefore handle the North Koreans, in close cooperation with two other primary members of KEDO, South Korea and Japan, said the official.

North Korean and American officials will meet in Berlin late Tuesday for continued nuclear talks suspended in late March, the talks will continue towards two additional sessions Wednesday, he said.

He expected South Korea would catch a glimpse of the North's real intentions at the end of Wednesday's sessions.

After the sessions, South Korea will have to have close consultations with the United States and Japan in accordance with the outcome of Wednesday's talks between the North and the United States, he said.

DPRK 'Change' in Expert-Level Talks Welcomed

SK1704014895 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
16 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial: "North Korea's Change of Attitude Should Bring About a Breakthrough in the Light-Water Reactors Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The light-water reactors negotiations between North Korea and the United States finally saw the green light. During the Berlin expert-level talks, which were suspended on 13 April, North Korea showed a significant change of attitude that may bring about a breakthrough in the negotiations. North Korea had insisted on signing the agreement on the supply of the light-water reactors only with the United States, but changed its attitude and reportedly said it could sign the agreement with the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) or with the United States on behalf of KEDO.

No one expected that North Korea would fully accept or object the U.S. stance to supply the light-water reactors through KEDO. The question is at what point between the acceptance and objection would North Korea make a compromise. When the agreement on the establishment of KEDO stipulated the supply of the ROK-style atomic reactors and the central role of the ROK, North Korea refused negotiations and the signing of an agreement with KEDO. North Korea's attitude was so obstinate that we worried that an agreement on the light-water reactors supply would not be signed. The concern was relieved by North Korea's change of attitude expressing its willingness to sign an agreement with KEDO. The biggest obstacle to the light-water reactors negotiations has been eliminated.

We do not believe that North Korea only made concessions. North Korea may have linked the concession with new proposals that are difficult for KEDO to accept. The United States may also have made new proposals. It is too early to be optimistic about the future expert-level talks only because North Korea showed flexibility toward KEDO. However, the change of attitude is certainly critical to the success of the talks.

At such a time, we would like to ask the ROK Government not to be overconfident and regard North Korea's change simply as a victory of the ROK's firm attitude. North Korea's decision was an inevitable choice for the implementation of the North Korea-U.S. agreed framework. Even though the result shows that the ROK's demand was partly accepted, it also worsened North-South relations. Although North Korea has been criticized for its brinkmanship diplomacy, it also showed a skill of gaining advantage by boldly making concessions when the situation calls. In contrast with this, the ROK has been criticized for not knowing when is the right time to make a demand or to make concessions. Particularly in North-South relations, the ROK scored more losses than gains by going one way to the hard line with the help of the hard-line conservative public opinion. We expect more flexible countermeasures from the ROK Government for the success of the light-water reactors negotiations.

Politicians Polled on Views of Nuclear Issue

SK1804022995 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
18 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the politicians of our country believe that even though the ongoing North Korean nuclear issue will experience several twists and turns, the issue will eventually be solved without any conflict between the South and the North. This notwithstanding, the politicians were seen to maintain a firm stance that if North Korea refuses ROK-style light-water reactors to the end, our government should not bear the costs for the light-water reactors; and it should either withdraw from the nuclear issue

or realize the imposition of sanctions against North Korea in cooperation with the United States and Japan.

This fact was revealed on 17 April as a result of a poll conducted by the CHOSON ILBO Political Department North Korean team of the members of the National Unification-Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly and key post holders of the Democratic Liberal Party and the Democratic Party.

Out of the total 27 National Assemblymen who participated in the poll, 22 said they supported the idea of discontinuing payments or imposing sanctions if North Korea rejects ROK-style light-water reactors to the end and only three respondents felt our side should make concessions.

A majority of 15 respondents felt that if North Korea operates nuclear facilities again: "We should be prepared even for a war, while pushing for the imposition of sanctions." In contrast, five respondents felt that "even if we have to make concessions, it will be necessary to continue negotiations."

Experts Polled on Role in North Reactor Project

SK1804090395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—At least eight out of every 10 experts on national unification affairs here feel South Korea should play a central role in the North Korean light-water nuclear reactor project and that the reactors to be provided to North Korea should be labelled "South Korean standard model," an opinion poll said Tuesday [18 April].

But the nuclear issue was cited as a rather minor concern, compared with the issues of inter-Korean dialogue and inter-Korean economic cooperation, among the pollees when they were asked what they thought mattered most in light of inter-Korean relations.

These are some of the findings of an opinion poll conducted recently by the Hyundai Research Institute at the request of the National Unification Board (NUB), which surveyed 722 experts on unification affairs.

According to the results of the poll, 85.1 percent of those queried opined that the South Korean Government should stick to its bids to get North Korea to accept South Korean standard-model reactors and to acquire a central role in reactor project.

Asked what they thought is most important regarding the South-North Korean relations, 48.3 percent pointed to the resumption of an inter-Korean dialogue, followed by expansion of economic cooperation (19.4 percent), conclusion of contract for light-water nuclear reactors (17.9 percent) and promotion of social and cultural exchanges (10.4 percent).

As to the country's share of the financial burden in the nuclear project in case North Korea refused to accept

South Korean-type reactors, 68.3 percent replied that South Korea should not contribute at all, while 21.3 percent opted for reducing the share and 6 percent claimed the country should pay as originally scheduled.

Regarding the issue of linking economic cooperation with the reactor project, 57.2 percent of the experts replied the two issues should be separately promoted and 40 percent of them insisted the two projects should be linked.

Most of the experts (73.3 percent) had the opinion that social, cultural and religious exchanges and cooperation on non-governmental levels must be proceeded on a selective basis, while merely 18.4 percent wished for an unconditional promotion of exchange.

Meanwhile, some 71.9 percent of those polled expressed the view that the United States made excessive concessions to North Korea in reaching the nuclear agreement in Geneva last October.

Ulchin Nuclear Reactor Construction Site Viewed

OW1804093195 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese
6 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 8

[Report by Sueya Umehara, ASAHI SHIMBUN foreign news department staff]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first thing that happened was that a public relations [PR] man said: "We would like you to refrain from taking pictures." It was late March, and I was visiting a power station in Ulchin, Kyongsang Province, South Korea, where a third and fourth nuclear reactor are now under construction. They will be the first practical test of the "South Korean-type light-water nuclear reactors." The South Korean-type reactors have been the focal point of the agreement under which DPRK (North Korea) will get assistance to replace its graphite-moderated reactors with light-water reactors. I could see why there was a tense atmosphere surrounding the North Korean issue and South Korea's confidence in developing nuclear technology by itself.

The Korean Electric Corporation public relations man explained the reason for the "ban on picture-taking."

He said: "The entire construction site is a security facility. You must obtain permission from the National Security Planning Bureau in advance."

Outside the entrance to the power station, a pavilion houses an exhibition on nuclear power which 250,000 people visit each year. However, the construction site of the third and fourth reactors, the focus of international attention, is blocked by the French-designed first and second reactors, and a small hill behind them. From outside the power station we can see only the tops of cranes.

The Nuclear Power Station Is Surrounded by Double-Wire Entanglements

I entered the power station, which is surrounded by double-wire entanglements, by an official Korean Electric Corporation car.

I looked down on the construction site, which is about 180,000 square meters in area, from an observation platform on the hill. Trucks hastily moved around the construction site, where reportedly about 3,500 people work, including supervisors and specially recruited employees.

To our left the third reactor was under construction. Concreting work was underway to build a cylindrical nuclear reactor [as published], and about 35 percent of construction work was completed. A nuclear reactor is reportedly scheduled to be set up in April. The fourth reactor was only about one-fifth completed.

People Are 'Working With Pride'

Hwang Sang-chol, chief of the construction control unit, said: "Everything is going well, as scheduled." He had also been engaged in construction of the third and fourth reactors at the Yonggwang Nuclear Power Station (in Cholla South Province), which started in the late 1980's. These reactors are considered "basic reactors" and are considered a little less technologically advanced than the standard-type reactors.

At that time, the South Korean side had to do much of the work together with the U.S.-European joint venture ABB-CE under a technological tie-up, and it faced difficulties in introducing technology and bringing the facilities up to standard.

This time, he said proudly: "As not many foreigners are engaged in the construction work, we are proud of doing it by ourselves."

When I asked Chief Hwang to give me a copy of the construction work outline, he nodded. However, the PR man accompanying me shook his head. Finally, though, the PR man allowed me to look through the construction work outline. I asked him to read it for me. The outline says the construction work aims "to promote the technological independence of domestic firms and to establish the basis for advancing abroad."

Results Achieved Through Cooperation With U.S. and European Companies

The reason why "standard South Korean-type reactors" are drawing international attention is not only that they are supposed to be offered to North Korea, but also that negotiations are now under way between South Korea and China, which is eager to rapidly introduce nuclear power plants.

In late March, a South Korean paper reported the following remarks by the president of Korean Electric Corporation: "Negotiations are under way to export standard South Korean-type reactors to Shandong Province in China. China wants to pay in kind with coal."

The South Korean atomic power industry has a lot of experience in technological cooperation with foreign countries to draw on, in addition to the advantages of the

standard South Korean-type reactor, such as its low cost and safety. The industry cooperated with the United States and France to construct pressurized water reactors, and with Canada to construct heavy water reactors.

In late 1994, the Korean Electric Corporation signed a consulting contract on the operation and maintenance of Dayawan [Daya Bay] nuclear power station in Guangdong Province, China. Under France's overall technological cooperation, China has already built the nuclear power station. Yi Ki-ung, chief of the Korean Electric Corporation's business development team, maintained: "China apparently wants our 'experience' to promote technological independence through cooperation with various companies."

For the time being, South Korea intends to promote cooperation, especially with China. However, Yi Pyong-hui, vice chairman of the Korean Atomic Power Industry Conference, mentioned the possibility of cooperation with Taiwan, saying: "Although there is a political problem, we have the experience which Taiwan desires."

And on the issue of general atomic power development in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Vice Chairman Yi said: "If they ask us, we will offer to cooperate with them."

"Standard South Korean-type reactors" use the results of a lot of experience and have much potential. It is reported that in the negotiations between the United States and the DPRK, the proposal was made that Pyongyang be provided with a redesigned U.S. model reactor, the prototype of the South Korean standard model.

However, in view of the way the South Korean-type has been built on experience, and the potential of the model, it is doubtful North Korea's objections can be overcome simply by putting a "Made in the U.S." stamp on the South Korean standard models.

This is my impression after visiting the nuclear reactor site in Ulchin.

Seoul, Advanced Nations Nuclear Plants Compared

SK1804071195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean models compare well with advanced nations in the efficiency of their nuclear power plants, judged on the basis of capacity factor and the number of unplanned shutdowns of plants, the organization for Korea atomic energy awareness said Tuesday.

According to the organization, the average capacity factor of a nuclear power plant was 85.53 percent in South Korea, fourth in the world, following the Swiss with 90.23 percent, Finland with 89.53 percent and Hungary with 86.17 percent.

The factor was 79.25 percent in Belgium, followed by Spain with 79.06 percent, Slovak with 78.55 percent, Czech with 77.08 percent, Canada with 76.39 percent and Taiwan with 76.15 percent.

Capacity factor, actual power generation to a plant's maximum capacity, shows how effectively a plant's facilities are being operated. Therefore, the factor is a yardstick to assess operations of nuclear power plants, officials at the organization explained.

The number of unplanned shutdowns due to problems in operation or radioactivity leakages was 0.9 per reactor in South Korea in 1992, lower than the 1.1 per reactor experienced by both the United States and France.

However, there were no unplanned shutdowns in Canada and Japan during the same year, and Taiwan saw only 0.5 cases of shutdown per reactor, according to the organization.

Activities of Pro-DPRK Groups in U.S. Noted

SK1704065795 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 17 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Activities of pro-North Korean organizations in the United States have been strengthened since the Geneva agreement was signed between North Korea and the United States in October 1994.

The pro-North Korean organizations throughout the United States appear likely to develop into a pro-North Korean and anti-ROK federation in preparation for the establishment of a North Korean liaison office in Washington; and people are concerned about the possibility of the creation of a second Chongnyon [General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan] in the United States. In addition to sending money to North Korea, these pro-North Korean forces reportedly propagandize North Korea and collect information in the United States.

According to the Foreign Ministry, there are some 20 pro-North Korean organizations in the United States, including the North America-North Korea Friendship Association, and over 200 people are actively engaged in pro-North Korean activities.

The Foreign Ministry recently submitted to the National Assembly a report entitled "Policy for Korean Compatriots in the United States To Cope With the Establishment of U.S. and North Korean Liaison Offices: Measures for the Possible Division of the Korean Society in the United States." In this report, the ministry said: "Since the adoption of the Geneva agreement, North Korea has strengthened its activities to promote visits by North Korean figures to the United States and to round up groups of Korean compatriots in the United States to visit Pyongyang."

In this report, the Foreign Ministry predicted: "When its liaison office is established in Washington, North Korea will actively conduct propaganda work to create a pro-North Korean atmosphere among Korean compatriots

in the United States and will attempt to form a large organization with about 200 Korean-Americans as key members, integrating some 20 existing pro-North Korean organizations across the United States."

A Foreign Ministry official stated: "In July 1994, North Korea detained pro-North Korean compatriots, who came to North Korea from the United States to express condolences over Kim Il-song's death, in guest houses on an individual basis to indoctrinate them on North Korean policy on expanding pro-North Korean organizations in the United States. Since the Geneva agreement was adopted, North Korea has strengthened not only the work of collecting members of Pyongyang-visiting groups in the United States, but moves of winning ethnic Koreans in other countries—such as Austria, Denmark, and Finland—over to the North Korean side."

The official also stated: "North Korea has also sent its Chongnyon agents who possess Japanese passports to the United States to secretly contact Korean compatriots who have relatives in North Korea."

The official continued: "There are about 20 pro-North Korean organizations in the United States, including the Korea Federation of University Student Councils, the North American Association of Koreans for the Reunification of the Fatherland, and the North America-North Korea Friendship Association. The number of Korean compatriots living in the United States with relatives in North Korea is estimated to be between 240,000 and 300,000. Most of them are thorough anticommunists, but some forces who are not sympathetic to the ROK, are beginning to create a stir." Korean compatriots in the United States sent over \$1 million to North Korea in 1994.

The official predicted: "When its liaison office is established in the United States, North Korea will first conduct a survey to document which Korean compatriots in the United States have relatives in North Korea, and will actively induce their investment in North Korea under the pretext of reuniting them with separated family members and the like, and will force them to make so-called loyal contributions."

As a result, the government will prepare measures to strengthen the ties with Korean compatriots by supporting pro-ROK organizations, such as the Association of South Koreans in the United States, and by strengthening educational, cultural, and youth programs for Korean compatriots in the United States, and will intensify activities to watch the moves of pro-North Korean organizations in the United States.

Measures Urged Against Pro-North Moves in U.S.

SK1804070895 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 Apr 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Calm Countermeasures Needed To Cope With the Activities of Pro-North Organizations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The activities of pro-North organizations in the United States are becoming more intense with the improvement in relations between North Korea and the United States. This has been disclosed in a Ministry of Foreign Affairs report to the National Assembly. This means that once a North Korean liaison office is established in Washington, D.C., it is likely that North Korea will attempt to form a nation-wide organization in the United States similar to the Chongnyon in Japan by rallying together pro-North organizations across the country.

It is easy to predict this in view of North Korea's proclivity and the tendencies it has shown thus far. In circumstances in which North Korea might possibly wish to form a pro-North organization, and considering the fact that pro-North figures and organizations have long existed, it seems that even though there may be no grounds for it, North Korea will not sit by idly, doing nothing.

We cannot help but pay attention to possible unpredictable developments in the situation. This notwithstanding, we do not believe that it is necessary to be too concerned or to be too surprised at such developments. This is because pro-North organizations have been in wide existence, and the United States is no exception.

If the Foreign Ministry's report is not mistaken, the number of people and organizations targeted by North Korea totals about 200 people belonging to about 20 organizations. This number is not high in view of the total number of Koreans residing in the United States. We think that it would be difficult for North Korea to form a nation-wide organization similar to Chongnyon encompassing the vastness of the United States. And, because the backgrounds and reasons for the settlement of Koreans in Japan is widely different from that of those in the United States, it is not highly likely that a pro-North organization similar to Chongnyon in Japan will be formed in the United States.

Nonetheless, this is not a matter that the government should belittle nor look on to with folded arms. In our experience, many North Korean or pro-North organizations have been fiercely engaged in anti-ROK, anti-government activities, thereby exerting a negative effect on international public opinion. The government should make its own preparations to minimize such bad effects.

But, as seen in the past era of authoritarian regimes, the government's countermeasures should not be worked out from the viewpoint of carrying out shady operations [kongjak chawon]. This is because unnecessary conflict may result in emotional confrontations within the Korean community, and because such operations may run counter to U.S. domestic law. Accordingly, the government should concentrate its efforts on laying a foundation so that no more people become pro-North. One such method would be to work out a fundamental and wide-ranging policies to provide support for Korean

residents with Korean language education for second-generation Korean residents and a variety of opportunities for them to come into contact with Korean culture, so that they can understand and love their fatherland.

Indictment of An After DPRK Visit Planned

SK1704042295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0316 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The prosecution will indict An Ho-sang, 93, leader of the indigenous religion Taejong-kyo, on charges of violating the law concerning inter-Korean exchange and cooperation by making an unauthorized visit to North Korea last week.

But the prosecution decided not to detain An physically as he was found to have focused on religious programs and not on acts "benefiting the enemy" during his stay in the North, the Seoul District Public Prosecutor's office said Monday.

An and Kim Son-chok, 69, chief administrator of the religion who accompanied An to the North, told the prosecution's interrogators they paid a courtesy call on North Korean Vice President Pak Song chol at his Mansudae office in Pyongyang Saturday just to exchange greetings.

While An said he did not remember what he had discussed with the North Korean vice president, Kim said they had proposed to conduct joint programs celebrating national foundation day, Oct. 3, every year starting next year.

National foundation day is the day Tangun founded Korea 4328 years ago. Taejong-kyo is the religion that believes Tangun is Korea's founding king.

Kim is known to have persuaded An to leave the country a day earlier than scheduled in spite of the government's policy against their North Korea visit, and for this the prosecution will question him intensively as to the purpose of his visit and his activities in the North before deciding what actions should be taken against him.

Chief Administrator of Religious Group Arrested

SK1804031095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0248 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office on Tuesday arrested Kim Son-chok, chief administrator of Taejong-gyo, an indigenous religious sect, for violating the law governing South-North exchanges and cooperation, and indicted its leader An Ho-sang under the same charges without physical detention.

Since their return home Sunday from their unauthorized visit to the North through the truce village of Panmunjom, the two leaders of Taejonggyo, which worships national founder Tangun, underwent medical checkups

and answered prosecutor's questions at the national police hospital in southern Seoul before returning home Tuesday.

Kim is the first citizen to be confined under the law on South-North exchanges and cooperation since it went into force in August 1990. The law bans making visits to North Korea without government permission.

Kim, accompanying An, flew to the North aboard an Air Koryo flight from Beijing last Tuesday, despite having been told by the authorities twice not to make the illegal visit, and stayed there until last Sunday. They attended ceremonies commemorating Tangun's ascendance to heaven in the North.

The prosecution will further question Kim Wednesday with regard to a Radio Pyongyang report that the two South Korean religious leaders, in their press conferences and welcoming ceremonies, called for "achieving national unification through national unity, rejecting foreign forces."

Government on Religious Leaders' Visits to North
SK1704005995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0048 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will allow religious leaders to visit North Korea, beginning next month, provided they are qualified for such a visit, though An Ho-sang, leader of the indigenous religion Taejonggyo, was put under house arrest upon return Sunday from his unauthorized visit to Pyongyang last week.

The government imposed a ban on visits to North Korea by religious leaders in April fearing that the North would exploit for political purposes those visits at North Korean major political events, such as the observance of the late Kim Il-song's birthday and the international sports and cultural festival.

A government official said Monday that despite An Ho-sang's unauthorized visit to the North last week, the government would allow religious leaders and others to visit North Korea if the manner of such visits contribute to the improvement of inter-Korean relations, reconciliation and cooperation.

The government, beginning in May, will ease the restrictions it instituted in April on North Korea visits after the concentration of North Korea's major political events in the month have ended, he added.

At present, Buddhist and Christian organizations, including the Buddhist Council for the Promotion of National Reunification and the Korean National Council of Churches, are planning to send missions to North Korea.

Analyst on Kim Il-song's Birthday Celebrations

SK1604013695 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea yesterday threw a massive birthday festival for the late North Korean

leader Kim Il-song, an occasion which, according to Seoul's analysts, is aimed at creating an atmosphere for power succession by his son Chong-il.

"No apparent changes in scale and characteristics were detected at the festival, compared with the time when Kim was alive. A majority of events commemorating Kim's death were followed by calls for allegiance to Kim Chong-il," an analyst at the National Unification Board [NUB] said.

The official quoted North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Yong-sam as saying at a mass rally Friday that all North Koreans must be solidly united under the leadership of Kim Chong-il.

Kim also told the rally that Kim Chong-il's succession of power was the late Kim's "greatest achievement," indicating that the junior Kim has a solid grip on power even though he hasn't officially taken over such titles as general secretary of the Workers' Party and state president.

The Pyongyang government designated yesterday and today as national holidays and held 15 events including mass rallies and art festivals, he said.

A total of 3,000 artists from North Korea and other countries took part in a spring festival at the Feb. 8 Cultural Center in Pyongyang April 9-18 while the Mangyongdae Prize Sports Festival was held in the Kim Il-song Stadium April 3 with participants competing in 60 events.

The Pyongyang government also issued commemorative stamps and postage cards while North Korea media filed their prime time with a series of special programs and documentaries eulogizing Kim's achievement during his reign.

As part of its overseas activities, Pyongyang promoted the publication of Kim Il-song's memoirs, interpreted in English, Chinese and six other languages and organized lectures on the memoirs.

Tens of pro-North Korean organizations in over 30 countries including Russia, China, India, Finland, Austria, Sweden, Egypt, and Peru also hosted movie screening sessions, book and photo exhibitions and commemorative gatherings, the NUB analyst said. Last year, pro-Pyongyang bodies from 20 countries organized similar events.

However, North Korea, beginning this year, stopped calling Kim Il-song's birthday "the nation's largest commemorative day," abandoning its two-decade-old practice. Instead, it designated his son's birthday as the nation's greatest holiday.

"In the past, the birthday festival aimed at creating a festive atmosphere. However, this event put more emphasis on shedding light on Kim's achievements," the analyst said.

Status of Foreign Aid Grants to DPRK Reported
SK1704060695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Grant-type aid contributed by developed nations to North Korea is rapidly increasing, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said Monday.

KOTRA quoted statistics from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as saying that 21 member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee provided Pyongyang with 7.5 million U.S. dollars in grants in 1993.

The OECD's aid for North Korea was only 900,000 U.S. dollars in 1990, but increased to 1.4 million dollars in 1991 and to 4.7 million dollars in 1992.

Grants contributed by international organizations other than OECD for the North has been relatively steady, reaching 7.5 million U.S. dollars in 1990, 7.6 million U.S. dollars in 1991 and 1992, respectively, and 7.1 million U.S. dollars in 1993.

Therefore, the total grant-type aid made by OECD and other international organizations was 8.4 million U.S. dollars in 1990, 9 million U.S. dollars in 1991, 12.3 million U.S. dollars in 1992 and 14.6 million U.S. dollars in 1993, the KOTRA said.

Germany topped the list of contributing countries, providing 3.9 million U.S. dollars in 1993, jumping from 100,000 U.S. dollars in 1990, 700,000 U.S. dollars in 1991 and 400,000 U.S. dollars in 1992. France followed Germany, granting 3.2 million U.S. dollars for Pyongyang in 1993, after having given the communist country 100,000 U.S. dollars in 1991 and 3.3 million U.S. dollars in 1992.

Japan and Britain have not given any grant-type aid for the North, according to the KOTRA.

Of international organizations, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has become the biggest donor, providing 3.8 million U.S. dollars worth of grant-type aid for the North in 1990, 3.4 million U.S. dollars in 1991, 3.9 million U.S. dollars in 1992 and 3.5 million U.S. dollars in 1993.

Mar N-S Commodity Exchanges Down 13.5 Percent

SK1704121195 Seoul YONHAP in English 1121 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The volume of commodity exchanges between South and North Korea stood at 18,761,000 dollars last March on an approval basis, down 13.5 percent from a month before.

A material released Monday [17 April] by the National Unification Board said the March amount brings to

54,210,000 dollars the January-March total of South-North commodity exchanges approved.

The three-month total represents a gain of 10.2 percent over the same period of last year.

In March, the introduction of 23 North Korean items totaling 16,617,000 dollars was approved while the shipment to the North of 22 items worth 2,144,000 dollars was okayed.

Steel and metallic goods were a lion's share, 72.6 percent, in the North Korean items approved for introduction, followed by textiles with 12.9 percent, farm goods 11.2 percent and herb medicinal items 2.3 percent.

Among the goods was a North Korean-made lathe introduced on a test basis.

On the other hand, South Korean goods okayed for shipment to the North included textiles which accounted for 66.8 percent of the total, machinery and electronic goods 2.4 percent and farm and fishery goods 0.6 percent.

Included in them was a set of freezer for the cold storage of fishery goods capable of storing up to 10 tons.

Also in March, eight projects of processing on commission, namely, manufacturing of goods in North Korea with raw materials provided by the South, totaling 1,256,000 dollars, were approved, down 12.9 percent from the previous month.

North Plans To Open Free Economic Zone 'in May'

SK1804021095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea is planning to completely open its Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone to foreign businesses next month and South Korean enterprises will also be allowed to conduct business activities in the area, a business person said Tuesday.

He said North Korea will allow foreign and South Korean businesses to transact business in the area after the North completes the installment of barbed wire around the trade area this month, which will be separated from the nearby residential area.

No Chong-ho, president of the CPICO International Trading Co., said that he was informed of the program from a senior North Korean Embassy official in Beijing on March 18, when he was engaged in business negotiations with embassy officials there.

He quoted the North Korean official as having said that any enterprises regardless of their nationalities would be allowed to enter the trade zone, beginning in May, without an entry visa if they were issued an invitation letter from a related company in North Korea.

No said his company has acquired land utilization rights for the trade zone from North Korea in return for its supply of barbed wire and the work for the installment of the barbed wire around the trade zone will be finished by the end of this month.

He said that the North Korean official did not elaborate on whether South Korean businesses are allowed to enter the trade zone, adding South Korean firms may be permitted to the area in view of the official's statement of "irrespective of nationality."

No disclosed he will visit North Korea next month to discuss detailed programs with North Korean authorities concerning land utilization in the Najin-Sonbong zone.

CPICO has recently completed shipping a total length of 40 kilometers of barbed wire to North Korea jointly with a Chinese trading company and plans to construct office buildings in the trade zone.

Firm Serves as Consultant for Business With North

SK1804061695 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 18 Apr 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] CPICO International Trading (representative: No Chong-ho), which drew attention when it won a contract for the supply of ROK-made barbed wire for the Najin-Sonbong area, is emerging as an active trade consultant firm for trade with North Korea, receiving requests from North Korean trading firms through China to make arrangements for joint investment and to sell goods.

CPICO International Trading said that through a Chinese trading firm it received requests from three North Korean foreign trade companies, namely, the Korean Nagwon Trading Company (president: O Hak-kun) under the Workers Party of Korea Nagwon General Bureau and the Korean Kwangmyong Trading Company and the Korean Automobile Yonun Trading Company under the Administration Council External Economic Committee to make arrangements for joint-venture business for sun caps and telephones and for the sale of some 60 kinds of goods, including fishery and mineral products.

Nagwon Trading requested CPICO to locate a joint-venture partner in Northeast Asia, including the ROK, to build a plant to operate on a processing on commission basis to produce 500,000 sun caps annually in the Najin-Sonbong area; and the External Automobile Yonun Trading Company requested CPICO to locate a company that would participate in the establishment of a joint-venture Pyongyang telephone company to produce 100,000 telephones annually.

In the meantime, Nagwon Trading offered to sell 300 tonnes of fishery produce, such as refrigerated pollack spawn, octopus, shellfish, seaweed, dried pollack, and locusts; 50 tonnes of sand of Haeju origin; and 200 tonnes of zinc powder; and to sell 16 kg of scandium of

the former Soviet Union origin, which is used as material for the neutron filter for nuclear reactors, at \$55,000 per kilogram.

CPICO President No Chong-ho, 33, stated: "Thanks to the business relations we established with the North in which we supplied 40 km (equivalent to 200 tonnes) of barbed wire for the Najin-Sonbong area in North Korea jointly with the Yanbian Longxing Group Corporation, our joint-venture company in China, we are receiving business offers from North Korea one after another. We are trying our best so that as many ROK businesses as possible will participate in the trade and investment in the North.

President No added: "We will build an eight-story officetel building on a 40,000 square meter site in the Najin-Sonbong area, which we received as payment for the barbed wire we supplied, to lease to ROK and foreign businesses that advance into this area and strive as best we can to make arrangements for investment in and trade with North Korea.

Pro-DPRK Groups Active in PRC, CIS Noted

SK1804053295 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yi Sang-il]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea is reportedly beefing up its contacts with ethnic Koreans in China and Russia as well as in the United States through pro-North Korean organizations.

North Korea's activities are thought to have been spurred on by the restlessness of pro-North Korean residents at the ROK Government's active exchanges with China and Russia.

According to the Foreign Ministry's report entitled "Measures To Integrate and Develop Korean Ethnic Societies in China and Russia to Cope With the Formation of Pro-North Korean Organizations," North Korea is controlling ethnic Koreans in China and actively infiltrating the Korean ethnic society in China via the "Chogyo" organization.

The report especially pointed out that "North Korea's infiltration into the Korean ethnic society in China was facilitated by the Korean ethnic people's negative perception of the ROK in the wake of the sudden expansion of ROK-PRC exchange."

The report also introduced that "in the case of Russia and CIS countries, a pro-North Korean organization called the International Korean Integration Association (MKAIE)—which succeeds after the Association for the Promotion of the Reunification of the Fatherland (ACOK) in September 1993 and whose headquarters is based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan,—is carrying out the work of inducing Korean ethnic people to visit North Korea, the activities to propagandize North Korea, and

the work of linking Korean ethnic people with pro-North Korean organizations in other countries, including the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon]."

The report said the MKAE is a colossal organization whose branch offices are located in 72 places across the CIS countries and operates some 10 businesses in Moscow, Tashkent, and Vladivostok in joint ventures with North Korea.

Regarding the government's measures against North Korea's movements, the report revealed: "In the case of China, the efforts should first be concentrated on relinquishing the Korean ethnic society's negative perception of the ROK. Through the ROK's investment to China, Russia, and other CIS countries, the ROK should promote the employment of Korean ethnic people and should study ways to increase its educational and cultural assistance to them and to expand the opportunities for them to visit the ROK."

U.S. 'Pressure' on ROK-Style Weapons Noted

SK1704140995 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean
20 Apr 95 p 24

[Article by unidentified correspondent: "ROK, Do Not Sell Your Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At one time in the late 1980's, ROK-style K-2 automatic rifles manufactured by the Daewoo Precision Corporation were regarded as a bone of contention between the ROK and the United States because the Colt Corporation of the United States, the manufacturer of the M-16 automatic rifle, claimed its own intellectual property rights had been infringed upon. Colt had given tacit approval to the ROK defense industry's production of the K-2 rifle, but made an issue of the corporation's efforts to export the rifle to third countries. At the time, Colt filed a relevant lawsuit while sending a letter of petition to the U.S. Congress.

At that time, officials in our defense industry, who had to depend upon key technologies or spare parts from the United States for most of our weapons which we proudly referred to as so-called "ROK-style" weapons, were at their wit's end in the face of such circumstances. There was a similar case concerning the ROK-style K-1 tank, which depends to a large extent upon spare parts imported from the United States; a total of 61 percent of the components of our ROK-style tank depends upon imported products. Among ROK-style weapons, the one we can export without problem is the K-200 armored personnel carrier. The rate of the import dependency of the armored personnel carrier, manufactured by the Daewoo Heavy Industries Corporation, is the lowest among similar items, ranking at 36 percent. Daewoo Heavy Industries sold 42 armored personnel carriers to Malaysia in September 1993.

The ROK defense industry, which has just come of age, has been endlessly held in check by the U.S. munitions

industry. A typical case is shown by a report worked out by the members of the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) of the U.S. military who visited the ROK in 1985. The TAT delegation, composed of eight U.S. generals and members of the munitions industry, toured enterprises in the ROK defense industry for several days and drafted a report to the effect that the ROK should completely abandon its defense industry. They claimed that because the ROK defense industry lacked competitive power, the ROK Government should purchase and scrap relevant facilities within the defense industry; it would be possible that the United States might provide the ROK with part of the money needed to implement such procedures. At the that time, the ROK Government and officials in the defense industry had to exert enormous efforts to revise this report that would be submitted to the U.S. Government and have a formidable influence later on. Even a Pertinent U.S. Congressman Applied Political Pressure [subhead]

What developed at that time was a logic about cooperation in the defense industry. The main point of the logic was to establish a vertical division of labor between the ROK and the United States. Paek Yong-hun, president of the Defense Industry Society (concurrently director of the Korea Institute of Industrial Development), who at that time was responsible for persuading TAT, explained the logic about cooperation in the defense industry: "This meant the ROK should concentrate its efforts on producing basic conventional weapons while assembling or jointly producing ultramodern weapons."

If interpreted only from the viewpoint of such logic, this idea was an excellent way to avoid conflict with the U.S. munitions industry. For example, if the ROK is to export conventional weapons, including ammunition, its competitors will not be the United States but third countries such as Israel, North Korea, and the PRC.

This notwithstanding, the reality proved to be different than what the logic proclaimed. From the standpoint of securing the necessary material for a future war while protecting the existing enterprises in the U.S. munitions industry, the U.S. Army even opposed the idea of the ROK exporting basic weapons to third countries. In addition, when ROK enterprises in the defense industry tried to export ROK-style weapons while not satisfied with the exports of conventional weapons, the United States further held the ROK in check. Relevant devices for this were worked out; that is, the "Law on the Control of the Exports of Weapons" and the "Law on the Regulation of International Weapons Exchanges." In accordance with these laws, if ROK enterprises in the defense industry are to export their weapons to foreign countries, they will have to get written approval from the U.S. Departments of Defense and State.

The International Security Policy Bureau of the U.S. Department of Defense will give relevant permission to relevant requests after taking into consideration the interests between each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces

and the convenience of the U.S. munitions industry. The relevant request will then be referred to the U.S. Department of State for review. The Politico-Military Affairs Bureau of the Department of State will give relevant permission after taking various aspects into consideration. This process is as difficult as plucking a star out of the heavens.

In reality, many enterprises in the ROK defense industry have been frustrated at seeing their relevant requests for the export of weapons rejected. Their request to export to Iran and Iraq was denied because these two countries were involved in strife; their request to export to Libya and Syria was denied because these countries were terrorist countries. The request to export to Chile, Nepal, and Bangladesh was rejected because these countries infringed upon human rights; the request to export to Haiti, Sri Lanka, and Paraguay was denied because the political situation in those nations was restless.

Of course, in the process of filing requests to and receiving permission from the U.S. Departments of Defense and of State, the interests of the U.S. munitions industry are a major variable, whether or not there is any justifiable cause.

Throughout the 1980's, the United States refused approve the ROK's export of Vulcan guns to third countries. The opinion prevailing in those in the ROK defense industry at that time was that a U.S. Senator from Vermont, where Vulcans are manufactured, had applied political pressure regarding this issue.

The General Accounting Office of the U.S. Congress pointed out that last year, less than 40 percent of the requests to export weapons filed by ROK enterprises in the defense industry were approved; however, ROK defense industry officials counter this, saying in reality this ratio is less than 5 percent.

U.S. Dispute Said Between Importer, Exporter

SK1604115995 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
16 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Kim Chae-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] An event occurred that resulted in another ROK-U.S. trade dispute due to a vague import contract and lack of domestic port facilities. The government joint working-level delegation including Sim Han-sop, director of the foodstuffs department of the Health and Welfare Ministry, which has been in the United States since 13 April to discuss the improvement of the food inspection system of imported agricultural and stock breeding products and processed food, reported on 15 April: "The U.S. side says oranges in 51 containers that entered the port between 18 March and 1 April are decaying due to a delay in inspections for customs clearance. The United States demanded this matter be corrected."

However, the government's position is that this issue as presented by the United States does not involve a delay in customs clearance, but is an issue between the importer and exporter themselves and the government should not intervene.

The problem is that there is a supplementary clause stipulating that the exporter must pay compensation for losses only when more than 5 percent of the oranges are rotten. Coincidentally, 5 percent of the oranges have rotted, so the importer and exporter both feel they have no responsibility regarding this matter. However, the importer states that they will pay \$14,000 less for the imported oranges because they are low quality.

SRV's Do Muoi on U.S. POW's, Korean Ties

SK1704074595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT
17 Apr 95

["Gists" of "exclusive interview" with Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, by unidentified YONHAP correspondent on Cheju Island on 16 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju Island, South Korea April 16, (YONHAP)—The following are gists of the questions asked and answers given during the exclusive interview given YONHAP News Agency by Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi:

Q. During the civil war in Vietnam, South Korea deployed approximately 300,000 troops to fight alongside the United States and the South Vietnamese Government against the Viet Cong. What is Hanoi's sentiment towards this past intervention?

A. History is history. And history is the past. Despite an unhappy period in the past, in the spirit of 'putting the past behind us and looking forward to the future,' the Communist Party, government and people of Vietnam are determined to establish a new relationship on the principle of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation. Our foreign policy is, externally, we should broaden our cooperation and relations and diversification and multilateralization of our relations. Never, never to be hostile to anyone.

Q. Can you comment on the allegation of the SNU [acronym not given] professor who claims there were up to 960 POWs from the war in Vietnam?

A. If we captured any, we released them all within Vietnam. The news spread by the professor is quite an allegation. After the war, we were very hungry, we could not feed our own people. How could we feed the POWs?

Q. South Korea is the fifth country that you have visited in your capacity as the general secretary. What positive aspects do you see in South Korea?

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A. Both countries are situated in East Asia, sharing many historical and cultural similarities, hence easy to sympathize with each other. There is a considerable complementarity between the two countries in economic development processes for mutual prosperity.

Q. Where do your economic interests lie in South Korea?

A. The Republic of Korea has recorded a relatively high level of economic, scientific and technical development, capable of capital and technology generation, and of development and management expertise. Vietnam has an abundant labor force, diverse natural resources, and a vast market. The combination will benefit both countries.

Q. In what industries do you seek cooperation?

A. Vietnam expects the Republic of Korea to invest in and cooperate with Vietnam in such economic fields as metallurgy, engineering, shipbuilding, electronics, chemicals, building materials and energy.

Q. North Korea has been a staunch ally of Vietnam's for many years, with consistent diplomatic relations. How will this affect Vietnam's relations with South Korea, with diplomatic relations in their infancy, established December 22, 1992?

A. If Kim Il-song had not died, I would have visited North Korea at his invitation. But unfortunately, he passed away. I feel sorry that I could not visit North Korea while he was alive. We have had a long-lasting relationship with North Korea. Representatives of our Ministry of Defense visited North Korea quite recently. The foreign minister of North Korea also visited Vietnam and extended his invitation for our foreign minister to visit North Korea. We think that the exchanges of invitation between the two leaders of our countries is quite normal and quite good. We maintain a good relationship with North Korea, while we maintain a good relationship with South Korea.

Q. How do you view the current situation on the Korean peninsula?

A. Vietnam follows with keen interest the situation on the Korean peninsula, supports the Korean people's aspiration for their peaceful national unification, the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, welcomes the recent developments in this connection, and wishes that the concerned parties solve the remaining problems through peaceful negotiations on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty and international law. We wish for the early reunification of the country through peaceful means, not by war. War brings suffering. The population of the people must be very sad if the country is divided. We also wish that denuclearization of both parts of Korea can be achieved. This is not just for the interest of the Korean people, but for the region as well. And for the world.

Q. Your conversations with Korean officials addressed the issue of nuclear power generation in Vietnam. Can you elaborate on this issue?

A. I made a survey on the production of such reactors (on this visit to Korea). We are projecting our costs of gradual industrialization, and during this process, we discovered that we are short in electricity. Now, we operate on the thermal and hydroelectric basis. First we have to fully utilize our thermal and hydroelectric power plants. Only then will we think about nuclear power. Certainly when those resources are exhausted. Certainly many people are offering. But it's not time yet.

Russian Weapons 'To Be Adopted' by Army Listed

SK1704130295 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean
20 Apr 95 p 72

[By reporter Kim Pang-hui]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian defense industry products to be adopted by the ROK in return for the outstanding principal and interest on an economic assistance loan issued to Russia by the ROK have been revealed.

The list of Russian weapons to be adopted in the later half of this year, following the import of four Russian helicopters on 29 March, includes updated Russian tanks, armored cars, portable missiles, and anti-aircraft missiles.

The ROK and Russia have already agreed on the Russian weapons to be adopted by the ROK. All that is left is an agreement on delivery. Though they are still discussing this issue, Russia is expected to supply the ROK with these weapons over four or five years beginning in the later half of 1995, unless particular problems occur.

Reviewing the details of the list, there is the Russian T-80 main battle tank and the BMP3 armored car. These weapons are what Russia promotes as exports these days. The official price of the T-80 is \$2.6 million per tank, and the price of the BMP3 is \$930,000 per unit.

The T-80 is a remodeled T-72, which was known as the strongest tank in the world in the early 1980's. In 1981, the former Soviet Union equipped its T-72's with gas turbines and improved its armor-protecting capability. Western countries named it the T-80.

The BMP3 is the latest model of the BMP series that is the main armored car of Russia. The BMP series has excellent river-crossing capabilities and can carry anti-tank missiles.

Two kinds of portable missiles will also be adopted by the ROK. They are the portable anti-tank missile Metis-M and the anti-aircraft missile IGLA. Metis-M is known to Western countries as the AT7 (Saxhon) guided missile. These missiles were deployed in the Soviet and Warsaw Pact Armies in the early 1980's, but the source of the missiles is not known.

IGLA ("needle" in Russian) is well known to Western countries as the SA-16 Gimlet low-altitude ground-to-air

missile. This portable missile was demonstrated by the Iraqi Army during the Gulf War as the most excellent of all portable anti-aircraft missiles in use at that time.

Why is the government bringing in these updated weapons from Russia? An official well versed in ROK-Russia defense industry cooperation stated: "I understand the government is bringing in the Russian weapons to deploy the same updated weapons as possessed by the North Korean Army, Navy, and Air Force at an educational level."

North Korea possesses these four kinds of Russian weapons but does not reveal the exact number.

It is still unclear how many Russian weapons will be purchased by the government. At high-level working-level talks between the ROK and Russia held in September 1994, Russia proposed repaying half its loan, totalling \$400 million—a principal of \$387.5 million plus interest—with raw material such as steel, aluminum, and nickel and paying the remainder with defense products; both sides agreed.

The total cost of the four helicopters that arrived last month, and four additional ones to be shipped during the later half of this year, is \$20 million, about 5 percent of the loan. Accordingly, the total cost of updated tanks, armored cars, and portable anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles is expected to total \$180 million, 45 percent of the loan principal and interest.

Russia desires to repay not only the unpaid loan principal and interest, but also a large part of the executed loan \$1,470 million with weapons. Because of Russia's desire, the total volume of weapons being discussed by the two countries is way above the \$180 million originally agreed upon between the two sides. Described in detail, it is expected the ROK will adopt 230 T-80 tanks, 31 BMP3 armored cars, 150 Metis-M portable anti-tank missiles, and 100 IGLA portable anti-aircraft missiles.

Former Opposition Leader Ends Visit to Japan

OW1604060895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0551 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Former South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung left here for Seoul on Sunday, ending his formal visit to Japan since his 1973 abduction in Tokyo.

Shortly before his departure, Kim was driven by the grand palace hotel in Tokyo from where he was kidnapped by a group of men on Aug. 8, 1973, and taken to Seoul. At the time of the kidnapping, Kim had been promoting opposition activities against the authoritarian rule of then President Pak Chong-hui.

"From here my hardship started. I have had bad dreams," Kim told reporters in front of the hotel in Iidabashi without getting out of the car.

Shortly after his release on the streets of Seoul five days after his abduction, the South Korean Government put him under house arrest.

In September 1980, Kim was sentenced to death for allegedly plotting rebellion and released in December 1982 after his sentence was commuted and suspended.

Kim retired from political life after his defeat by Kim Yong-sam in presidential elections in 1992.

During his weeklong visit, Kim met with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who heads Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), Japan's largest opposition party, and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who is also head of the Japan-(South) Korea Parliamentarians League.

Contract Signed To Sell Cigarettes in PRC

SK1704121295 Seoul YONHAP in English 1125 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, April 17 (YONHAP)—South Korean cigarettes will sell in China, the world's largest cigarettes market, beginning next month.

A contract for the shipment to and marketing in China of South Korean cigarettes was formally signed Monday [17 April] here between Haerim Trading Co., an agent of the Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corp., and China Tobacco Import and Export Corp.

Under the contract, two South Korean brands—"88 Gold" and "88 Light"—known best suited to the Chinese taste will be supplied to China from next month and will sell for 8 yuan (about 800 won) per pack, roughly same as their consumer price in Korea.

Haerim will introduce 80,000 cartons of the two brands through the Dalian Port in the initial shipment next month for supply mainly to northeastern China where many ethnic Koreans live.

Depending on consumers' reaction, Haerim will increase the imports of the Korean cigarettes and expand their marketing to the entire area of China step by step.

Seminar Discusses Strategies in WTO System

SK1804005995 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In order to avoid its undue dependence on Japan and China as two biggest regional economic powers, Korea needs to develop alliances for advanced products with European and North American firms, a local scholar said.

"Korea may, for example, represent a volume production platform in such sectors as automobiles and electronics for European companies that are having difficulties in the American market," said Cho I-che, research adviser to the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP).

At a seminar to discuss Korea's international economic strategies under the World Trade Organization system [WTO], Cho said that this country must ensure the labor foundations for flexible volume production. "Korea must face and grapple with the terms under which labor is going to be engaged in the production system," he said.

The advisor to the government think tank noted that Korea is facing the challenge to develop technological resources internally, to define new markets or to differentiate products within existing markets. Korea is in a "successful technology catching-up trap," he said. "To sustain its industrial development, Korea must now break out of the well-understood trap."

Cho, citing that Korea needs more options for the future, as firms, nations, and regions are accumulating resources ahead of the need for their exploitation, said that Korean firms have the option of seeking alliances and partnerships.

Expressing doubt whether the economic model relying on a handful of conglomerates can continue to succeed, the KIEP advisor stressed the important role to be played by small and medium-scale firms, citing the examples of Japan and Germany.

Korea needs to achieve a policy balance and develop creative institutional arrangements that will simultaneously nourish the small and medium-scale firms, which will create the required flexibility and support the large conglomerates in such a way that they can provide muscle in international competition, he said.

Cho forecast that Korea's future economic state will be a cooperative form of capitalism and said the nation's policy-making should be based on cooperation and consensus among the government, financial sector, business associations and mass media.

Robert Eisner, professor of Northwestern University, said that for Korea to maintain economic growth in the WTO era, it should deregulate and liberalize the movement of goods, services and capital, develop manpower and increase R&D spending, expand social infrastructure and ensure fairer distribution of wealth.

The U.S. scholar also stressed the need to expand investments in the future, through increased gross domestic products and creating more employment.

Gerald M. Meier, professor of Stanford University, said that fair trade does not mean that all countries should follow the rules decided by the United States nor that all countries' market shares should be the same.

He said that newly industrial countries would be able to make greater economic development under the WTO system through more effective dispute settlement procedures.

Singaporean Ambassador Urges More Joint Ventures

SK1804060595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Singapore's Ambassador to South Korea Dr. Pang Eng Fung called on Korean firms to explore joint investments in third countries Tuesday.

"Only the imagination limits the possibilities of combining Singapore's comparative advantages in information technology, regional networking and management with Korea's strengths in manufacturing, construction, and research and development," Pang said at a luncheon hosted by the Singapore Technologies Industrial Corporation, Ltd. (STIC) here.

The Singaporean corporation, meanwhile, delivered at the luncheon video presentations to promote joint ventures in industrial parks in Wuxi, China, and Batamindo and Bintan, Indonesia.

Around 200 people attended the event, including Indonesian Ambassador Hadipranowo and the Wuxi Deputy Mayor, Wu Xing Xiong, along with many distinguished guests from the Korean business community.

The guest of honor was Kim Tok-hwan, president of the planning and coordination office of the Ssangyong Business Group, a co-chairman of the Korea-Singapore Economic Cooperation Committee.

UK Trade Minister Arrives To Attend Forum

SK1804081795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0709 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The British Minister for Trade Richard Needham arrived in Seoul Tuesday to attend the third annual meeting of the Korea-United Kingdom Forum for the Future, the British Embassy here said.

The minister and his delegation arrived at Kimpo Airport on the inaugural flight of British Airways' new direct, non-stop service from London, said an embassy spokesman.

The forum will be opened Thursday by former Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, also the forum's Korean chairman, according to the embassy.

The forum comprised of leading businessmen, academics and government officials from Korea and the United Kingdom will discuss aspects of economic, political and cultural cooperation and consider recent developments in Korea, Northeast Asia, the UK and the entire European Union, said the spokesman.

Members of the forum will attend a reception hosted by Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku and a lunch hosted by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong.

Needman's visit is one of a series by British ministers following the successful visit to London last March by President Kim Yong-sam.

Secretary of State for Health Virginia Bottomley visited Seoul during March 17-18 and secretary of state for transport will visit Seoul April 22-26.

Participants in the forum this year will include Chairman Chong Se-yong of the Hyundai Business Group and Robert Ayling, chief executive officer of British Airways, said the spokesman.

British Arrest ROK Greenpeace Activist

SK1804060995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—A senior member of South Korea's Greenpeace movement was arrested by the British judicial authority while he was engaged in a demonstration at a nuclear weapons facility and plutonium production plant in Britain on Monday, along with 350 other Greenpeace activists, the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM) said Tuesday.

A KFEM spokesman said that Choe Ye-yong, director of the organization department, is presently being held in custody by the British authorities, arrested shortly after the anti-nuclear demonstration took place, just hours before talks concerning the United Nations nuclear non-proliferation treaty began in New York on Monday.

The spokesman said that Choe and the Greenpeace activists from 15 countries participated in the demonstration targeting the Aldermaston Nuclear Weapons Factory in Berkshire and the Sellafield Plutonium Production Facility in Cumbria.

The Greenpeace activists shut down and sealed with concrete Aldermaston's main radioactive discharge pipe leading from the site into the River Thames, the spokesman said.

Asia-European Union Meeting Participation Studied

SK1704040995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0352 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea is considering taking part in the summit meeting of Asian countries and European Union (EU) member countries, proposed by Southeast Asian nations and the EU, in hopes the summit will enhance economic and political cooperation with Europe, according to a Foreign Ministry official Monday.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (AEM) was first proposed by Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok-tong and his French counterpart Edouard Balladur when the two met in Singapore last October.

South Korea will consider favorably accepting an offer to join the summit meeting if South Korea is formally invited into the AEM, said the official.

"Such a meeting will contribute to enhancing political and economic cooperation between the emerging Asian economies and the advanced European countries," he said.

Although the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has yet to formally invite South Korea, it openly asked South Korea, Japan, China and Vietnam to join the AEM.

The ASEAN and EU have proposed to hold the AEM with 15 EU member countries, six ASEAN nations, South Korea, Japan, China and Vietnam participating, said the official.

China and Vietnam have responded favorably to the AEM's invitation while Japan counter-proposed that Australia and New Zealand become members of the summit meeting before it joins the AEM, said the official.

Japan had also made the same proposal last month when it was unofficially offered by ASEAN to join the proposed East Asian Economic Cooperation (EAEC), resulting in the collapse of the ASEAN meeting for the formation of the EAEC consisting of six ASEAN nations plus three Northeast Asian countries including South Korea, China and Japan.

At that time, the ASEAN failed to draw a consensus on inviting Australia and New Zealand with a few nations strongly opposed to the idea of accepting the two countries in to the EAEC.

The United States is strongly opposed to the EAEC initiated by Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir, fearing that such a meeting could lead to a strong regional economic bloc led by Japan, the official said.

The U.S. Government also wants Japan not to join the AEM for fear that the EAEC could undermine the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), said the official.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and European Union have been engaged in negotiations to materialize the proposed summit and the two sides basically agreed to hold the AEM around March next year in Bangkok, said the official.

The two sides will hold a high-level officials' meeting on May 2 in Singapore concerning the AEM, said the official.

Economic Ministry Reports Rise in Trade Deficit

SK1804082395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT
18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The strong yen combined with a recovering world

economy has prompted South Korea's imports to increase at a faster pace than exports, expanding the trade deficit.

Trade with China and other Asian developing countries is riding a favorable trend, while trade with the United States, Japan and European Union countries is on an unfavorable course.

In the first quarter of the year, the country registered a 31.5 percent increase in exports over the previous year, totaling 26,157 million U.S. dollars and a 35.1 percent rise in imports bringing the total to 30,473 million U.S. dollars for a trade deficit of 4,316 million U.S. dollars, up 1,648 million U.S. dollars from the same period last year, according to figures released by the Finance and Economy Ministry Tuesday.

The South Korean economy is dependent on imports from Japan for its export-oriented growth, and the strong yen and the recovering world economy have made its two-way trade expand rapidly since late last year.

The semiconductor, automobile and chemical industries together recorded a 37.3 percent growth in exports, playing the leading role in the economy's export market. Light industries, including fabrics and paper, recorded a less conspicuous 19.8 percent export increase.

The rapid growth of exports entailed a more rapid import increase: Imports of raw materials for use in the manufacture of export goods soared 57.2 percent from the first three months of last year to 10,136 million U.S. dollars and those of finished products for the domestic market rose 26.3 percent to 20,338 million U.S. dollars.

Included in finished products for the domestic market were producer goods such as machinery and equipment, whose imports increased 43.8 percent over a year earlier, indicating increased investment in production facilities. Imports of raw materials for use in light industry also rose 43.2 percent.

Noteworthy was a 31.5 percent increase in imports of consumer goods: 301.4 percent for cars, 154.3 percent for coffee beans, 73 percent for beverages, 72.9 percent for raw sugar, 70.9 percent for animal feeds, and 61.8 percent for clothing.

Trade with Japan incurred a deficit of 3,569 million U.S. dollars and that with the European Union a deficit of 871 million U.S. dollars.

The deficit with the United States already exceeded that of February's end, 1,026 million U.S. dollars recorded for all of last year and reached 1,780 million U.S. dollars at the end of March, compared with the 424 million U.S. dollars registered for the same three-month period last year.

Finance Ministry Reports Foreign Investments Up
SK1704082795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Foreign investments in South Korea have increased sharply this year, reflecting the economic boom of the country.

Foreign investments in South Korea during the first quarter of the year stood at 175 and totaling 514 million U.S. dollars in amount, representing a 36.7 percent rise over 128 cases recorded during the same period last year, and a 99.2 percent hike from the 258 million U.S. dollar total of a year earlier, the Ministry of Finance and Economy disclosed over the weekend.

The ministry attributed the drastic increase in foreign investments to the prospect of continued economic boom in the country, satisfactory labor-management relations and an improved investment environment for foreign firms.

Foreign investments for the non-manufacturing sectors reached 106 cases totaling 333 million U.S. dollars. The figures represented a 39.5 percent increase over 76 cases the previous year and a 120.5 percent jump from the previous year's 151 million U.S. dollar total.

In the manufacturing sector, foreign investments numbered 69 cases totaling 181 million U.S. dollars, to record a 32.7 percent gain in the number of cases and a 69.2 percent boost in amount.

Showing particular increases were foreign investments in firms manufacturing high-technology products. For instance, American and British firms invested 17 million dollars in Asia Acetyl Co., a vinyl acetate maker, and a U.S. firm invested 126 million U.S. dollars in POSCO Huls Co., Ltd., a manufacturer of silicon wafer.

Also included among foreign investors are Glaxo Korea Co., Ltd., a British-affiliated drug maker, and DuPont polymer, an engineering plastics manufacturer.

Domestic enterprises attracting foreign investments comprise not only the heavy chemical industry but also clothing and assembling of children's toys.

Foreign Investments Detailed

SK1604022695 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in
English 16 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign direct investments in Korea, lured by the nation's economic boom and improved business environment for foreign capitals, jumped 99.2 percent to \$514 million in the first quarter period, from \$258 million a year ago.

The number of investment projects also increased sharply to 175 in the first three months compared with 128 a year ago.

Manufacturing investments also showed a brisk increase to \$181 million on 69 projects, marking increases of 69.2 percent and 32.7 percent in total value and project number, respectively, from \$107 million on 52 investments recorded in the same period of 1994, the ministry said.

Nonmanufacturing—or service—industry investments increased even at more rapid paces of 120.5 percent to \$333 million, or an increase of 39.5 percent to 106 projects.

Officials attributed the soaring direct investments by foreigners to the prospect of a prolonged economic boom, peaceful labor-management relationship, increase of supports and simplified procedures for foreign investors.

United States headed the list of foreign investors with \$199 million in the first quarter, or an increase of 114 percent from a year ago. Following the American lead was the European Union with \$111 million, or a 12.1 percent gain. Coming on third were the Japanese investors which poured \$102 million, more than doubling the \$50 million a year ago.

Minister Pak on Opening of Semiconductor Market

SK1804005895 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Apr 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is moving to promote competition among domestic businesses through the liberalization of various market entry limitations in the semiconductor, petrochemical and other industries.

The government, however, will maintain a minimum involvement in the form of guidelines to prevent overheated investment and competition, said Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Pak Chae-yun yesterday.

He made the remarks in a meeting with industrial leaders organized by the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) as a forum for broadbased discussion of economic policies and industrial activities.

In his keynote speech, Pak revealed that entry and expansion limits on petrochemical and power generation plants will be completely lifted before the end of this year.

Similar restrictions on semiconductor plants will also be scrapped at the earliest possible time, he told some 300 business leaders at a training facility for small and medium firms.

He said, "Instead of categorizing the government's various industry-related policies, the ministry is seeking to introduce a new system under which all aspects of manufacturing will be given equal status."

Pak said deregulation will also take place in oil refining and the distribution of fuel, and that revisions to pertinent legislation will be introduced some time this year.

"The government is moving in the direction of deregulation in virtually all industries except for minimal

involvement so that necessary guidelines can be effectively introduced," Pak explained.

By minimal involvement, he was referring to such avenues as the Industrial Development Deliberation Committee which arbitrates cases in which excessive investment and competition is involved.

Pak said the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET) has been directed to make a presentation on the general overhaul of the mediation system so it is more cooperative in nature.

"While allowing free entry into industry, the government is interested in encouraging a higher level of specialization to boost the international competitiveness of domestic companies," he said.

Pak also said factors such as environmental pollution by manufacturers will be addressed through industrial restructuring, avoiding regulatory channels.

At the same time, he said the government will concentrate on establishing an environment that is conducive to cooperative relationships between large and small business enterprises, forging complementarity wherever possible.

Among others making keynote speeches in the one-day forum were FKI chairman Choe Chong-hyon, also chairman of the Sunkyong Group, and Kim Sun-hong, chairman of the Kia Group.

DLP Seeks Working Permit System Implementation

SK1704014195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0114 GMT
17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) is positively seeking ways to introduce an "employment permit system" aimed at preventing an excessive inflow of foreign workers from entering the country and working illegally.

A DLP official said Monday the party will hold a series of meetings with the administration as well as public hearings next month before drafting "the law concerning the employment and management of alien workers."

The legislative bill will be tabled at the regular National Assembly session opening in September, he said.

He explained the enactment of the law is necessary as labor circles in the country have persistently asked the government to establish basic principles to govern alien laborers.

"We are urgently needed to develop systematic devices that will prevent the increasing number of illegal foreign workers from entering the country," he said.

The new system will be devised to effectively cope with the era of brisk migration and exchange of labor force among countries, he added.

Negotiations on DP, NPP Merger 'Hit a Snag'

SK1604011895 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations on the proposed merger of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) and the splinter New People's Party (NPP) have hit a snag, as the NPP is sticking to a demand the DP cannot accept.

The DP is now suspecting that NPP leader Kim Pok-tong may have changed his mind and is careening toward aborting the proposed merger.

Political analysts predicted early this month that the two parties would soon merge as they appeared enthusiastic about their unity pending the June 27 local elections.

But during the past two weeks, the negotiations have been deadlocked over the NPP's demands.

NPP negotiators are demanding that the DP should give its members the candidacy for the governor post of North Kyongsang Province and mayoral posts of Pusan, Taegu and Incheon. They are also demanding the candidacy for 47 heads of smaller cities and counties in Seoul, South and North Cholla provinces and in North Kyongsang Province for the local elections.

The NPP, a small party with 12 members of the National Assembly, also demands the DP appoint 46 of the NPP members as heads of district chapters of the envisioned new party to run for the parliamentary elections next year.

A DP official said, "I personally interpret the NPP's unreasonable demand as Kim's message that he is no longer interested in the merger."

Kim, who was eager for the merger early this month, may have changed his mind after he visited Taegu, his home city, April 4, DP negotiators said.

When Kim met voters in Taegu, many of them opposed the proposed merger with the DP, whose political base is in the two Cholla provinces, Kim's aides said.

They said Kim may have felt that his party could not win much voter support in Taegu and in the North Kyongsang Province if it should merge with the DP.

According to recent opinion polls, the DP is the least popular in Taegu and in the North Kyongsang Province, the political home of former military-backed presidents, followed by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

The DP, on its part, badly needs Kim and his NPP to advance into the region.

A DP negotiator said that "sooner or later, we have to make a decision on whether to give up or push ahead with the merger, because we don't have much time left until the local elections."

But he didn't rule out the possibility that the DP and the NPP may strike a last-ditch agreement on terms of the merger after Kim Tae-chung, who stands behind the DP's largest faction, returns from a visit to Japan and meets with NPP leader Kim this week.

Samsung's Yi Apologizes for Controversial Remarks

SK1804100895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Samsung Business Group Chairman Yi Kon-hui, upon arriving at Kimpo International Airport from Beijing Tuesday [18 April] afternoon, made an apology for the "controversial" remarks he made while visiting the Chinese capital.

"I made the remarks out of my concern about the future of the country," he told reporters.

Yi said his Beijing remarks were not meant to criticize bureaucrats and politicians but to point out "the fact that the nation's systems are wrong," adding that he thought he as a citizen can criticize anything wrong.

"Since the days of Japanese rule, the Korean people have been told not to do this and that, while the Japanese people have been told to do this and that," he said.

Asked if he had anything particular in mind when he made those remarks in Beijing, he denied his remarks criticizing the government had been prepared. He, however, admitted that the press conference in Beijing had been pre-scheduled and that it was his first of its kind.

In the conference he sharply criticized the government and politicians for their "not staying abreast of the times and world trends."

Compensation Plan for Kwangju Victims Completed

SK1704060195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kwangju, April 17 (YONHAP)—The Kwangju City government has put the final touches on the government's compensation program aiding the victims of the harsh military suppression of the Kwangju democratization movement in May 1980 by selecting the last group of recipients for compensation.

It decided Saturday to put the names of six additional victims on the list of recipients selected from among 18 people claimed to be missing or to have died due to injury sustained during the incident. Bereaved families of the 18 had asked for a review of the compensation plan which they had said was unsatisfactory.

In line with the decision, 140 million won will be paid to the family of a person who died as a result of his injuries and another 607 million won to the families of five people still missing.

This will mean that the city's total compensation payments will reach 181,736 million won and the number of victims receiving compensation will be 4,066, which breaks down to 154 dead, 47 missing, 2,740 injured, 1,064 people jailed or detained and 61 others. This figure includes the 650 people who were compensated for two or more reasons so the actual number of victims is 3,416.

Seoul No Longer To Pursue Population Control

SK1704112595 Seoul YONHAP in English 1110 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Faced with growing manpower shortage in the future, South Korea will no longer pursue population control, a senior government official said Monday [17 April].

An end to the present population control is needed as the current manpower shortage is anticipated to grow more serious in the future due to the slowed-down pace of population growth and the expansion of old age, Vice Finance and Economy Minister Yi Sok-chae said.

"The country faces the need to switch the population policy from the discouragement of excessive population growth to a greater emphasis on the quality of population," he said.

In a speech at a seminar marking the 30th anniversary of the Population Institute, the vice minister said now is the time to employ measures to allow more people to take part in economic activities and better meet diverse manpower need through more extensive training programs.

Yi said Korea's economy has been beset with the problem of wage spiral due mainly to the shortage of necessary manpower.

Another important measure on population, he said, will be to ensure well-balanced population distribution. "We should have more effective steps to control city-ward trend and enable competent workers to settle in the rural areas," Yi said.

In the past 30 or so years, a rapid economic growth has led to an unbalanced population distribution, setting off serious problems such as traffic congestion and housing shortage in the urban areas and the shortage of work hands in the rural zones, he said.

Group Works on Curbing Human Organ Trafficking

SK1604012595 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 95 p 3

[By staff reporter Pyon Un-mi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A comprehensive package of measures to curb illegal trafficking of human organs will be worked out, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced yesterday.

The focal point of the measures is the proposed inauguration of a separate organ-sharing organization with a nationwide network.

"The envisioned body will be in charge of controlling all information related to organ sharing, and supervising and supporting private organ donation organizations," said Kim Tae-sop, an official at the ministry's Medical Policy Department.

The body will take over the arrangement between organ donors and recipients which has been performed by a private organization. The existing organization will be entirely involved in campaigning to promote organ donations.

The announcement came following a 10-day inspection of the private organization which came under suspicion of trafficking human organs. The ministry inspected the Headquarters of Organ Donation Movement from March 21 to 31.

A vernacular daily reported that the organization forced organ recipients and their families donate money to the organization and diverted the money for personal use of its staff.

Yu Sung-ho who led the inspection team said that the inspection uncovered such misdemeanors as misappropriation of 20 million won of public money for one week. Also, the accounting documents were found not to be fully verified.

But no serious wrongdoing has been found, Yu said.

The ministry has commissioned treatment of the relevant officials, including president Pak Chin-tak, to the organization's foundation.

Kim said that the ministry has yet decided on the nature of the newly-inaugurated organization.

"We are considering ways for the government to directly control the institution, to put under the wing of the Korean National Red Cross or to commission its operation to a organ transplant society," he said. "The ministry is closely scrutinizing merits and demerits of each option."

Also included in the proposed measures is the enactment of regulations, including the legislation of recognizing brain death. Medical experts have clamored that the legislation setting a procedure to certify brain death is urgently needed to prevent organ transplants from being illegally conducted.

In the meantime, illegal traffickings in human organs are reported to flourish here as the demand of organ transplants is growing.

Newspaper reports say that more than 20 organized trafficking rings are in operation, centering around general hospitals in major cities. They are even reported to

be supplied organs from Southeast Asian countries including India and Bangladesh.

The advertisements selling kidneys and looking for suppliers are common in the toilets of large hospitals.

Those receiving a kidney reportedly pay from 20 million won (\$25,000) to 30 million won (\$38,000) for the kidney. The trafficker gets about 10 or 20 percent of that.

Hospitals say that they are conducting transplanting operations only in the cases that the relationship between donors and recipients are confirmed and there is no suspicion of illicit trafficking. But investigating sources say that inspection by the hospitals is just a formality.

Investigating sources say that the measure to cope with those booming illegal trafficking is urgently needed because there is no legal basis to crack down on them.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore**Malaysia****Business Executives Urge Japan To Join EAEC**

OW1404141495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1313 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 14 KYODO—Malaysian business executives met Friday [14 April] with a Japanese business mission and urged Japan to join the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), Japanese officials said.

The mission, sent by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and headed by Keidanren Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda, held talks with leaders of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia.

The Malaysian officials told the visitors that Japan should join the EAEC and speak for less powerful Asian nations in working out new rules under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

They expressed concern that the interests of Asian nations may not be reflected in the WTO rules.

Toyoda told the Malaysians that it is up to the Japanese Government whether to join the EAEC, an economic bloc originally proposed in 1991 by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad.

Mahathir: Existing Government 'Best' for Country

BK1704141795 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The system of federal administration combined with the National Front (BN) national style administration in Malaysia is the best for the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said government administration alone was not enough without backing from the system of cooperation that existed among the component parties of the BN. He said without the two systems a poor state had to use its own limited resources resulting in the state remaining poor. As such he said, the people had to ensure not only the system of federal government must remain, but also that the BN government continued to rule the country.

He added the government was not only capable of planning the development needed but also of using expertise from all over the world to bring about development. Hence development on par with the other nations could be achieved in a short time.

National Front Wins 20 Seats Unopposed

BK1504140495 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Front is now ahead of other parties in the run for the ninth general election.

As of now, the National Front has won 20 seats unopposed—11 parliamentary seats and nine state assembly seats.

Nine out of the 11 parliamentary seats won were in Sarawak; one is in North Petaling Jaya, Selangor, where the candidate was Mr. Lim Poh Pow; and another one is in Larut, Perak. The candidate for Larut was Datuk Mohamed Zihin Mohamed Hassan.

The five state seats won in Selangor were in Batang Kali, with Tan Sri Mohamed Haji Mohamed Taib as the candidate; Sungai Panjang, with Mr. Mohamed Fauzi Murad as the candidate; Sungai Burong—Datuk Mohamed Aini Taib; Rawang—Datuk Tang Si Hang; and Kuala Kubu Baru—Ch'ng Toh Eng.

The National Front won two state seats in Bukit Nanning—Johor, where the candidate was Mr. Misan Alias; and Ramuan Cina in Melaka, where Haji Long Said was the candidate.

Another two state seats that the National Front won were in Terengganu. They were in Rantau Panjang, with Mr. Shafie Daud as the candidate; and in Sura, with Mr. Ibrahim Awang as the candidate.

Mahathir Comments on Victory

BK1604093695 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the National Front's uncontested victory for 20 parliamentary and state seats is a good sign for the coalition parties to form a government by winning more than two-third majority. He however assured that the parties will not be complacent and will continue to campaign actively to win the support of the people in the coming general elections.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir expressed the confidence that National Front will achieve overwhelming victory on polling day. He reminded that the feeling of animosity raised by the opposition during their campaigns will make the country suffer. Dr. Mahathir pointed out the National Front will continue its efforts to unite all communities and to distribute the country's wealth fairly to all. He said the only way for Malaysia to continue achieving success. [sentence as heard]. At this stage, the National Front only has to win a minimum of 117 more seats to secure a two-third majority in the 192 seats in parliament.

Polling for the remaining 181 seats in the national parliament and the 385 state seats in 11 state legislatures are set for April 25th in peninsular Malaysia and April 24th and 25th in the states of Sabah and Sarawak.

Mahathir Warns Action Against DAP Chief

BK1804072795 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 3 in Malay 0530 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir says that the government will take action against DAP [Democratic Action Party] Secretary General Lim Kit Siang if

he goes too far during the next general election because that could undermine racial unity. Speaking to reporters following a get-together with the people in Labuan, the prime minister said that the government will monitor Lim Kit Siang's behavior and action will be taken against him even during the general election if he goes too far.

Editorial Views DAP Call for 'Full Liberalization'

BK1804043795 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 15 Apr 95 p 8

[Editorial: "DAP's Manifesto on Full Liberalization Is Not Practical"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its election manifesto, the DAP [Democratic Action Party] is calling for "full liberalization." We believe that the DAP means absolute freedom. There is currently no instrument that can measure the meaning of absolute freedom because it is very broad and varies greatly when seen from different angles. In the history of democracy, we have yet to identify any country that practices absolute freedom. Is the DAP trying to project itself as the first hero to fight for freedom? To us, this is impossible for the DAP to do; the party must first straighten its internal affairs.

We are surprised to hear that the voice of freedom is that of DAP Secretary General Lim Kit Siang when we know that the party never gives freedom of speech to other party leaders or members. The history of the DAP shows that former Deputy Secretary General Lee Lam Thye was very disappointed with the fixed political ideas and views adopted by the party. The DAP was willing to lose a very promising leader for the sake of protecting the interest of a particular person in the party.

Disappointed with the DAP under Lim Kit Siang's leadership, Lee resigned from the party. Lim probably felt relief following Lee's resignation because he would not be haunted by the latter, who had the potential to usurp his position.

Therefore, how will the DAP fight for the absolute freedom it has been publicizing throughout the country in the upcoming ninth general election? If Lim has no confidence in his party's democratic system, then it cannot be true that he is looking at a wider scenario of democracy. We also noticed that in several events involving the DAP, the party leadership that came forward was representative of only one race. Is this because other leaders are not allowed or not qualified to represent the DAP? Where is Ahmad Nor, the Malay hero in DAP, or P. Patto, who represents Indians?

In the latest development, we are puzzled that the DAP wants to uphold full liberalization in the country when they criticize the presence of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) [Sabah United Party] in Penang. The PBS has fielded only one candidate in the state and has not declared war on the DAP. Is the DAP's action a threat to freedom? The DAP made wild accusations against Sabah's leaders when it was banned from entering that state a few years

ago. As far as the DAP is concerned, it is the only party that is democratic. Actually, the DAP should make room for the PBS to spread its wings in Penang just as the DAP was allowed to contest seats in Sabah in the past. It is not right for the DAP to take revenge or prohibit the PBS from testing its popularity on the island just because the people of Sabah do not accept the party. The DAP is also worried about the one party system in the country. There is no basis for concern because the Barisan Nasional (BN) is made up of 14 component parties representing the interests of various races in the country.

We feel that the people have become wise in assessing the DAP's sincerity. They, too, can tell the difference between the thrust of a manifesto that reflects sincerity and one that has clear political motives.

What a pity that when other countries with different political ideologies praise our country's policy and leadership, Lim Kit Siang tries to arouse the people's sentiments to reject the BN. In the previous election, the DAP failed in its goal of denying the BN a two-thirds majority. They are therefore at wits end to find a new idea that is nice to hear but not practical for application. To us, the DAP's "full liberalization" idea will destroy itself because the party does not put into action what it is fighting for. We would like to ask how the DAP would implement the 10-point democratization program it outlined in its election manifesto when the party's basic domestic problems cannot be handled. We cannot foresee any possibility that the democratic program to guarantee the people social and economic justice would be implemented. We do not see any flaws in the free economic system currently practiced in the country because it has been proven to guarantee prosperity for the people.

Cambodia

KR Marks Anniversary of U.S. Military 'Defeat'

BK1804093495 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 17 Apr 95

["Statement" issued by the Provisional National Commission Opposing the Second U.S. War of Aggression in Cambodia on 16 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 17th of April marks the 20th anniversary of the shameful defeat of the United States' first war of aggression in Cambodia. This shameful reversal constitutes a lesson for the Clinton administration, which has colluded with communist Vietnam to make a second war of aggression in Cambodia.

Why was the United States defeated?

1. Could the modern weapons, including B-52 and B-57 bombers and F-111, F-105, and F-4 jet fighters, the United States garnered from everywhere in the whole Asian-Pacific region to use in the Cambodia war prevail over the Cambodian people? No. They could not.

The event explains that it is the people who are the decisive factors that determine a military victory, not weapons and materials.

The Cambodian people were opposed to the U.S. imperialist aggressors and Lon Nol, who did away with Cambodia's independence, neutrality, and peace. The Cambodian people struggled against the U.S. imperialists for the sake of an independent, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia and for the self-determination rights of the Cambodian people as masters of their own country. The morale of the Cambodian people was zealous and no B-52 and B-57 bombers, F-111 jet fighter, or any modern weapons could conquer this stern resolve.

2. At the end of 1978, communist Vietnam, with the backing of the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, sent over 250,000 troops and more than 50,000 administrators to invade Cambodia. Communist Vietnam intended to annihilate the Cambodian nation and people in the twinkling of an eye by means of its blitzkrieg strategy so it could swallow and incorporate Cambodia as part of Vietnamese territory as Kampuchea Kraom. Nonetheless, communist Vietnam was inflicted with shameful setback—both its blitzkrieg strategy and its strategy of waging a long-term war of over 10 years collapsed.

This is more evidence that force of violence and force of materials can never prevail over a people who are fighting to defend independence, territorial integrity, and the right to self-determination.

3. Following the Paris accord, the movement conducted by the Cambodian people to oppose war and to achieve national reconciliation for a durable peace in Cambodia has been extremely vigorous. The concern over the presence in Cambodia of countless Vietnamese, who are in the process of snipping at the Cambodian territory, has peaked. The Cambodian people want the termination of the two-headed regime and communist Vietnamese puppets in order to achieve genuine peace and national reconciliation. This wish is presently vehement in the heart of every Cambodian in the countryside and Phnom Penh and at home and abroad.

In view of this situation, can the U.S. Administration continue the communist Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia? Obviously, the United States is suffering the consequence of an act committed by communist Vietnam in Cambodia. The United States will be defeated in a shameful manner in Cambodia for the second time, no matter what.

On the 20th anniversary of the defeat suffered by the United States in its first war of aggression in Cambodia, our commission would like to call on the American people and the U.S. Administration to ponder attentively over the old and new historic lessons above. Should the U.S. Administration continue to follow the old path—a path leading to reversal and disgrace—by furthering the war of invading Cambodia against the wish of the Cambodian nation and people or should it

take into consideration the aspiration of the entire Cambodian nation and people, who oppose war and who want to achieve peace and national reconciliation. Peace and national reconciliation are beneficial to the Cambodian nation and people, the regional states, and all other countries, including the United States, who are doing business in this region.

Given the concrete situation in Cambodia, the only way out is to end war in order to restore national reconciliation and peace.

Those pursuing a different path will be inflicted with setback and will die, come what may.

16 April 1995

The Provisional National Commission Opposing the Second U.S. War of Aggression in Cambodia

NADK Claims Triumphs Around Battambang

BK1804043995 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is a report on how our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] is smashing and sweeping away the positions of the two-headed invading forces on the south Battambang battlefield:

1. At 0900 on 12 April, our NADK launched a commando attack that completely destroyed the position of the 4th Division's 14th Regiment at Kbal Lan. We killed 15 enemy soldiers and seized 30 guns, including 22 AK assault rifles, two RPD machine guns, four SKS guns, a B-40 and a B-41 rocket launcher, and a significant quantity of war materiel.

2. On the night of 14 April, we attacked and completely destroyed a position held by two-headed ranger troops at the Bai Damram Monastery. We killed 10 enemy soldiers; wounded eight others; and seized 10 AK's, 500 AK rounds, 15 hand grenades, and some war materiel. On the same night, we fired five rockets into Battambang town and planted 12,000 punji stakes and some landmines.

3. On 7 April, our NADK attacked and swept away three enemy positions in an area east of (Prala Kraham) and at [word indistinct] and Thippadei. We killed five enemy soldiers, wounded seven others, and seized some ammunition and war materiel.

Sihanouk Delivers New Year's Address 16 Apr

BK1804025495 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Speech by King Norodom Sihanouk during a new year's celebration at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on 16 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted—Sihanouk thanking ceremony organizers] It is time for us to make every effort to expand and consolidate our solidarity and union in accordance with Cambodia's mores and customs; in accordance with the mores and customs of countries that cherish the correct and right path. This means that every new year's day we must cleanse our mind and our thinking and discard the evil feelings of anger, ignorance, and greed. Therefore, basing ourselves on both the teachings of Lord Buddha and the mores and customs of civilized nations, we must purify our mind and our thinking. All of us, including me, must have committed some mistakes, errors, or careless acts in our lives. Therefore, we must purify our soul and reorient our future thoughts and acts to be worthy of the people's trust and to serve the superior interests of our nation and motherland. Moreover, we must discard anger and ignorance; that is, we must get rid of hatred and hostility.

Being hateful and hostile is natural. It happens in all countries. The other day I met with a delegation of the French Republic headed by (Jean Varret). He said to me: Your Majesty, it is the same in my country. There are disputes and quarrels and politicians are verbally attacking one another as the general elections to choose a new president approach. The French are not too serious about their quarrels, though. In the end, they usually become friends again and respect democratic rules.

Therefore, all of us should forgive and forget. Even Lord Buddha, who never committed a serious crime in his life, was not beyond reproach. If one acknowledges his faults—if he begs the state, the Royal Government, or parliament for pardon—he should be forgiven. The French call this a pardon or amnesty.

The king usually forgives. Look at me, for example. I even forgive those who deposed me, killed my children and grandchildren, and sought to set up a republic. When they returned to the national fold, I received them because they acknowledged their mistakes. A certain person urged me to revive Sangkum Reas Niyum [former regime]. I told him: Do not forget it was you who deposed me; who murdered Sangkum Reas Niyum. How can you ask me to bring it back? I am not going to listen to your advice. My children are already carrying on the tradition of Sangkum Reas Niyum. The FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party and the People's Party [CPP] are carrying on that tradition and I trust them. I am sorry I cannot do what you ask of me.

So there is such a person who ousted me, toppled the throne, and did away with Sangkum Reas Niyum and who asked me to bring Sangkum Reas Niyum back. I am sorry I cannot listen to him. Maybe he has become too senile and I must remind him of the past. I myself have become a grandfather, but this grandfather seems to be stronger than the other grandfather and I must help carry him around. [laughter]

So that old man who deposed this old man is being helped around by this old man.

Therefore, I am confident that my children in this modern time can be merciful and forgiving. This is reasonable. On the one hand it is according to our Buddhist teachings, and on the other it can benefit our nation. Lord Buddha taught unity, mercy, and kindness. I am not going to single out those who deserve mercy by name. It is up to the samdech and excellencies who are our national leaders to decide. Pardon anyone you can pardon. If you think I am asking too much, do not do it. I dare not interfere. I am merely begging you. On the occasion of this new year's day it is our tradition—and also that of the French—to pardon; to release from jail even convicted murderers. It is general practice to grant amnesty, for example, on the king's birthday or new year's day.

Our Royal Government has pardoned the Khmer Rouge although they have committed many heinous crimes. Many of them have even been commissioned and inducted into the Khmer Royal Armed Forces. I have nothing against that. In my opinion, this kind of national reconciliation is correct. I agree with it. I do not feel betrayed by it. I believe it is smart to do this so our nation can live in peace and prosperity.

As for Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Ta Mok, they are incorrigible; nothing can be done about them. Some people have said I love the Khmer Rouge. This is not so. I merely want our nation to have peace. If they do not agree with us, let them take the path they have chosen.

I beg your pardon if what I am saying does not please you. I am speaking from the bottom of my heart. It is our tradition on new year's day that we always talk about nice things; about mercy and kindness. We should end the disputes. If a small group of people still insists on harming our nation, they will be punished by history, by the world, and by our national community. If they insist on committing sins, they will surely receive due retribution.

My queen has just enlightened me on this point. I wondered aloud why a person like Pol Pot is still alive—someone who killed as many as 2 million people and should have gone straight to hell. My wife told me that Pol Pot once wielded power and ruled over the country as a despot. Now he has returned to the jungle and is being endlessly cursed and condemned by the world and our nation every day. This is retribution for the sins he has committed. As he cannot be saved, we should let him continue to suffer the retribution he deserves. As far as I am concerned, I do not insist on punishing anybody.

One man hated me to the end of his life, but I did not reciprocate his hatred. When he died I even ordered Khek Sisoda's wife Madame Na Nu to pay tribute to his remains and pray for the passage of his soul to heaven. Let me tell you the name of this man. He was Mr. Sim Va. There is no need to keep it a secret. I ordered Madame Na Nu to pay respect to his remains. I merely prayed that we would not meet each other again in the next life. I am afraid of him; I am not angry with him at all. In the next life, I hope I meet all of you who are

present here again. If anyone here does not wish to see me again, I will not see him. If any one of you wishes to see me, then thank you, we will see each other again in the next life, but certainly not His Excellency [H.E.] Sim Va, because I am afraid of him and no matter what I did he would never forgive me. Even H.E. Cheng Heng and H.E. Ing Kiet now forgive me but H.E. Sim Va until his death never forgave me; he had only hatred for me.

I have never hated him because we are all Cambodians in a small nation. I do not mean that Angkor was a small nation, but our population was only 7 million. With the 2 million killed by Pol Pot, we have had to work hard to rebuild our nation. According to the latest census, we are now about 10 million strong. So I praise all the parents who are very good at making children. Anyway, even with 10 million we still cannot be called a big nation. Just look at Vietnam; its population is approaching 70 million. So we are still a small country. According to a French saying, however, unity is strength. This means that even though we have a small population, if we are united, if we love one another and help one another serve the fatherland and the people, we can be strong. We are now quite strong because after the elections we managed to achieve reconciliation and suppress secession. Parties like FUNCINPEC and the CPP are united. This is the best thing that has ever happened. As the French say, it is best to let bygones be bygones. This fills me with pleasure.

I thank all of you very much for greeting me on this occasion. I feel most elated by the prayers chanted by the Buddhist monks and all the faithful as well as all of you. Thank you again for organizing so many events in accordance with our traditions, such as the annual exposition, and for sending me merit so I can live a long life. In order to live a long life, you should understand that I must be happy. When I see all of you firmly united, I am very happy. When I see all of you work jointly to rebuild and develop the country, I am very happy. [passage omitted—details of past new year's practices under Sangkum Reas Niyum and Sihanouk's pleasure at seeing people celebrate new year's day in unity]

Indonesia

Minister Stresses ASEAN Cooperation With PRC

BK1804061995 Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 15 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta (SUARA KARYA)—Indonesia believes that the PRC will reap great benefit from the establishment of AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area]. Therefore, the ASEAN countries and the PRC should strengthen and expand their ties. Speaking to reporters in Jakarta on Thursday [13 April], Hartarto, coordinating minister for industrial and trade affairs, expressed Indonesia's belief that the full realization of AFTA in 2003 will bring about closer cooperation between ASEAN and other countries, including the PRC.

"The full realization of AFTA in 2003 will create a bigger market for foreign products. The ASEAN countries, with their 450 million people, will offer bright prospects to any country wanting to upgrade cooperation with them," said Hartarto, who briefed reporters on the outcome of his visit to Beijing to present ASEAN's views at the China summit meeting 10-11 April.

The PRC and ASEAN countries should take the opportunity to upgrade their ties. "For example, ASEAN and the PRC can set up an industrial joint venture by capitalizing on their own potential," Hartarto said. Such a joint venture would lead to a greater market for countries in this region as well as the PRC. "When the developed countries of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] achieve free trade in 2010, ASEAN-PRC joint products will be able to enter their market easily," he said.

Great potential

Hartarto stressed that the ASEAN countries and the PRC have great potential that will enable them to attract investors from other regions to relocate their industries in this region. "We have a great comparative edge; namely, in infrastructure and massive human resources. This is our great potential," he said.

Hartarto said, however, that regional peace and stability will determine the success of efforts to boost economic ties between ASEAN and the PRC. He said: "Regional peace and stability will strengthen the framework of economic development."

Therefore, all issues obstructing good ties between ASEAN and the PRC, including overlapping claims to the Spratly Islands, must be settled peacefully as soon as possible. "If all countries adopt the principle of peaceful coexistence, bilateral economic cooperation will expand in the future," he said.

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

BK1704163495 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0811 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 17 April (ANTARA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti crown prince and concurrently the prime minister, arrived at the Halim Perdanakusumah International Airport, Jakarta, Monday at 10.00 West Indonesia time [0300 GMT] for a 12-day official visit to Indonesia. The visit will end on 121 April.

The Kuwaiti prime minister, who was accompanied by his adviser; three ministers; and a number of high-ranking officials, businessmen, and reporters, was welcomed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Jakarta Governor Suryadi Sudirja at the Halim Perdanakusumah airport.

The delegation of state guests from Kuwait was officially welcomed during a state ceremony at the Istana Merdeka

[Merdeka palace] by President Suharto and Vice President Try Sutrisno at 10.30 West Indonesia time [0330 GMT].

During the state ceremony, the national anthems of the two countries were played and a 19-gun salute was fired.

While in Indonesia, the Kuwaiti crown prince, who is concurrently the prime minister, and his delegation will hold talks with President Suharto. The delegation will also make a visit to the IPTN [National Aircraft Industry] in Bandung, the National Museum, and Bali.

The Kuwaiti delegation will depart for Kuwait on 21 April via Denpasar, Bali.

Editorial Views Suharto Visit to Central Asia

*BK1804032895 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
13 Apr 95 p 4*

[Editorial: "The President's Visit and Our Impression of Three Central Asian States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our curiosity about the changes and progress in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan was increasing when President Suharto visited the three former Soviet Central Asian states.

We can immediately grasp some of the dynamic developments in the three states from printed and electronic media reports. Their warm welcome of the head of state and his entourage demonstrated their genuine hospitality.

We also have the impression that these three states have changed very quickly. Communism, which dominated their lives for decades, seems to have left no traces. Life has become loose and free. Their religious life has refuted the communist prediction that it would die.

On the other hand, the human race witnessed an interesting historical journey when communism suddenly became helpless and collapsed just before the end of the 20th century. Its lifeline and endurance were actually very limited despite its vigorous appearance.

More and more people are asking how the people of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan were able to return to religious life after decades of a systematic atheist campaign.

As a religious society, we pay attention to the return of religion—especially Islam—to the former Soviet Central Asian republics. It is proof that Islam, as an integral part of the majority of Central Asian peoples, could not die or be eliminated under the repressive communist system.

It is only sensible that religious life flourished again as soon as communism departed the historical stage. Communism, once gigantic on that stage, has disappeared from people's lives.

The dramatic event seems to be part of an unending historical study. The question is how an enormous

ideology and organization that had been so powerful and seemingly invincible for seven decades finally lost power and collapsed.

Communism will also serve as a classic example of how an ideology imposed from the top and used by a power superstructure to control people can never last long. Communism, which pretends to be an ideology for the proletariat, in fact legitimizes the political interests and power of the elites.

Learning from the failure of communism, nations the world over have further strengthened their confidence in open and democratic ideologies capable of accommodating the growing aspirations and dynamism of the people.

We have seen for ourselves how enthusiastic the peoples of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and other former Soviet republics have been after being freed from the closed and totalitarian communist ideology.

We resisted and rejected communism long ago. Hence, there are no longer any ideological obstacles to the development of friendship and cooperation with the Central Asian states.

President Suharto's visit to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan demonstrates our close relations. To us, these states are not too alien. President Suharto visited Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in 1989, when Uzbekistan was still a Soviet republic.

Our knowledge of Uzbekistan grew when President Islam A. Karimov visited Indonesia in 1992. In 1994, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov visited Indonesia. Relations with Kazakhstan in particular have been developed by Indonesian businessmen through business contacts.

President Suharto's visit to the three states was not simply to enhance mutual understanding and knowledge, but was meant to establish a basis for broad economic, technological, and scientific cooperation. As fellow developing countries, Indonesia and the three states will be able to exchange experiences and ideas in the enhancement of the development process.

Amid tight and rapid global competition, agility in seeking and using opportunities to win markets and encourage economic cooperation is essential. Diplomacy now requires quick action instead of lengthy and complicated discussion.

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan seem to be in the process of looking for a development model to suit the people's needs. The development of a market economy and privatization has not taken its final form. Certainly this search is not easy and must follow a long transition period.

It is not impossible for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan to become gateways for Indonesian products to enter Central Asia and surrounding areas.

It is very interesting to note that Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov sought the support of President Suharto, concurrently chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, for his country's neutral and positive foreign policy.

The request for support seems to be based on a positive assessment of Indonesia's free, active, and nonaligned foreign policy. Indonesia has, for example, played a role in the settlement of the Cambodian crisis; sent peace-keepers everywhere, including Bosnia; been active in the Nonaligned Movement; and hosted informal meetings on the Spratlys issue.

In international relations, a neutral foreign policy is more supportive of efforts to achieve world order and peace than a partisan policy.

Suharto Approves Request To Question MP

BK1404134495 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1158 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 14 Apr (ANTARA)—President Suharto has approved a request by Attorney General Singgih to summon and interrogate Sri Bintang Pamungkas, an Indonesian MP believed to have been involved in an anti-Indonesian demonstration in Germany when the president was visiting that country.

Speaking in Jakarta Friday, Basrif Arif, head of the Attorney General Office's Information Service, said the president's approval is a response to the attorney general's letter in accordance with the procedure to summon an MP for interrogation.

Article 3 of Law No. 13/1970 stipulates that any legal action against an MP must be taken with the president's approval and with the attorney general acting as the prosecutor.

Based on available evidence, Sri Bintang Pamungkas, an MP from the United Development faction who is facing a recall [preceding word in English] from parliament, and other Indonesian nationals including [former TEMPO editor] Gunawan Mohamed and [student activist] Yeni Rosa Damayanti, are believed to have been involved in the protest demonstration against President Suharto in Germany last week.

Military Commander: Rebels Buy Guns in PNG

BK1504134895 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0613 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General I. Ketut Wirdhana, commander of the VIII Trikora Military Command, said that most members of the security disturbance movement, who call themselves the Free Papua Movement (OPM), were arming themselves with weapons bought freely in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

"This thing was proved by the discovery of a Double Loop [preceding two words in English] rifle on a beach

along the south coastal line of Merauke regency or about five kilometers from the Irian Jaya-PNG border this week," the commander said in Jayapura on Saturday.

He said that the rifle had been found when a military unit on patrol found a man, suspected of being a member of the OPM, grilling a fish.

When approached by the military, the man fled, leaving behind the rifle.

He said the owner of the rifle fled the scene and went into hiding in villages in the PNG area. The military unit failed to arrest the man and returned to its post, bringing along the Double Loop rifle with them.

The commander said that the military unit found it difficult to arrest the OPM rebels, who are still roaming the jungle along the Republic of Indonesia-PNG common border. This is because when spotted by the security patrol unit, they crossed over to the neighboring country, which has a common borderline with three regencies of Irian Jaya. The three regencies are Jayapura, Jayawijaya, and Merauke.

The local security forces have always called on the people who are still hiding in the jungle to return to the main stream of society to jointly develop their villages.

"We will not do any harm to those who have pledged their sincerity to return to their villages, because whatever happens, they are Indonesian citizens. It is just that for the moment they are being misled," the commander added.

He said that the military is ready to welcome the return of those people who had been misled by the OPM rebels and are still roaming the jungle.

Laos

*** Article Comments on MIA's, Reward Money**

95SE0122A Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Feb 95 p 7

[Article by Midet Techo: "POW's of the Vietnam War"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In 1971 the United States sent a special warfare unit from the air base in Nakhon Phanom to rescue U.S. military personnel being held on the outskirts of Hanoi. Vietnamese officials had moved all the prisoners to points along the Chinese border so that the rescue attempt was not successful. The Pathet Lao movement claimed victories in shooting down 136 U.S. aircraft in 12 major battles starting in 1968. For example, in the battle for Tha Taeng from 26 November 1968 to 24 April 1969 three helicopters were shot down. In the battle for Singkham in Saravane Province from 27 August 1972 to 24 October 1972 16 aircraft were shot down.

The prisoners of war in Vietnam and the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] were almost all pilots

and ranged in rank from Flying Officer to Flying Captain. They had been carrying out their duties flying aircraft out of air bases in Nakhon Phanom, Nam Phong, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Ratchasima, Takli, Nakhon Sawan, Ubon Ratchathani, Camp Ramsun—an important communications base, and Udon Thani to bomb roads and military positions, when ordered, both day and night. They flew many types of aircraft. The B-52's from the air base in Sattahip had a high service ceiling and took part in all battles from 1964 to 1975. They caused a great deal of damage to the countries of Indochina. Many aircraft were brought down by antiaircraft guns, SAM 5 missiles, and sabotage.

During battles, the bombers and fighters were operating all the time along the Thai border with the LPDR. The damage there was regularly visible. Some aircraft burned in the night and looked like comets. Some aircraft came back to crash in Thailand in the Mekong River or in the sea so that the Seventh Fleet could send boats to rescue the two pilots of the F-4 Phantoms. In the battle for Savannakhet Province in October 1970 an aircraft was shot down and the crew parachuted out but they were stranded on Yang Mountain. One suffered a broken leg and was captured. The other was shot and killed because the local combatants wanted his flight boots which they believed held 20 baht [a unit of weight equal to 15 grams] of gold in each heel for a total of 40 baht of gold to be used to hire people to guide them if their aircraft were shot down and they parachuted safely down.

In 1981 there were a great many reports about prisoners. Former U.S. military personnel secretly crossed the Thai-Lao border at Nakhon Phanom and Mukdahan into the LPDR in order to search for prisoners of war and the bones of military personnel who died in the fighting. In 1983 the bones and dog tags of U.S. soldiers were brought to the U.S. unit responsible for searching for personnel missing from the war. There were bogus reports to swindle money. There were Lao swindling Lao, and Lao swindling Westerners. The confusion caused problems. There was a misunderstanding between the countries of Indochina and the neighboring countries that these efforts constituted intervention in order to bring back the old system. U.S. officials refused to allow Thai security forces to search so as to keep the former U.S. soldiers coming secretly into Thailand from conducting operations which would constitute interference in international relations inasmuch as they were using Thailand as a base of operations.

The bones, dog tags, and medallions were almost all counterfeit. Sometimes people were taken to the scene of a fire which looked like it had been caused by a plane crash. As for the dog tags, they hired people to cross the Mekong River and bury them in the area of the fire before they began the search. Everything was falsified. There may have been some pieces that were real but no one could say for sure except U.S. officials.

In 1985 the United States asked official permission from the LPDR to search for the bones of U.S. pilots who had

been shot down in the area of Sepone District, Savannakhet Province and Boualapha District, Khammouan Province. The compensation was rewards for those who knew the resting places of the pilots' bodies plus assistance in developing villages, repairing roads, and building village schools and clinics. Some bounty hunters lost hundreds of thousands of baht when local people insisted that they could provide the bones. After they had received the money and crossed the Mekong River a short while, it was learned that they had been shot and killed. Whether they were actually killed or the deaths were faked, no one has dared to cross the Mekong River to prove the authenticity of his finds for many years now. No one has been able to operate across the border according to the information we have received.

If there had been a live prisoner of war, rumor had it that he would have been worth U.S. \$10 million. It was said in the markets and in conversations in coffee houses that according to newspaper sources there were U.S. prisoners being kept in caves under mountains in Saravane Province, Nghe Tinh Province, Houa Phan Province, and all kinds of places. Even in Vietnam it was said that there was an underground town especially for U.S. prisoners to prevent their detection by satellites. Some said that there was a village for prisoners in northern Vietnam and that their appearance had been changed so that they would look like Soviets. They were being detained to teach flying, electronics, and mechanics to the Vietnamese. Some bounty hunters on the border along the banks of the Mekong River are still hoping for a great deal of money. They are in touch with individuals outside the country who claim to have seen Westerners with red hair and prominent noses working in fields on a mountain in the Phou Luang mountain range 2 km from the road to Ho Chi Minh City. When asked how the prisoners will be brought out, everything they describe is like a fable which local people would never be able to accomplish.

In 1995 the United States opened diplomatic offices in Vietnam, and there were talks about the number of military personnel missing in action in Indochina. In any case the claims of the bounty hunters to have heard rumors and their repeating the rumors should stop now because there is nothing for them to gain now, and the rumors were almost all bogus. Now people can travel back and forth easily and the prisoners of war will be gone in the present era of world change.

PRC Army General Arrives 13 Apr, Hold Talks

BK1804043195 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Army [LPA] led by Lieutenant General Ai Souli-gnaseng, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the LPA General Staff Department, held a meeting with a delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA] General Staff Department led by General Zhang Wannian, chief of

staff of the PRC PLA General Staff Department, at the Latsavong Hotel in Vientiane on 14 April. During the meeting, the two sides informed each other of the activities of their general departments. They discussed and exchanged views and experiences on many matters. The two delegations also reiterated their determination to further promote and expand even more fruitfully the long-standing traditional relations of friendship and good cooperation between the two armies and, in particular, between the two general staff departments.

The CPLA delegation led by Gen. Zhang Wannian, chief of staff, arrived in Vientiane at noon on 13 April for a four-day friendship visit to Laos.

National Trade Forum Outlines Goals, Adjourns

BK1004152995 Vientiane KPL in English 0944 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, April 10 (KPL)—The three-day nation-wide conference of commerce for 1995 closed here on April 7 under the chairmanship of Sompadit Volasan, minister of commerce.

The conference evaluated the implementation of guidelines and plans, their strong and weak points, and the causes and lessons from their operation. The participants discussed in depth issues pertaining to the party, civil servants, the re-organization of mechanisms, guidance and management, market adjustment, consumer protection, price, goods, and monetary control, production promotion and protection, foreign trade relations, balance in foreign trade, transformation of policies into detailed regulations and rules, the operation of export-import activities, wholesale and retail sales, duty-free shops, and some others.

The participants also made comments on the mapping out of the direction, plans, programs and projects for the year 1994-1995 and the strategy till the year 2000 in trade.

The discussion also touched upon some new issues: draft decrees on the promulgation of business law, draft agreement on the department of enterprise registration, draft regulations on business, consultancy, and services, and draft regulations on the transit of Vietnamese goods via Laos to a third country.

The conference approved a report on trade activities for 1993-1994 which affirmed the correct direction and policy of the trade sector based on the party-state guideline and policies.

The conference vowed to get rid of certain points and shortcomings by starting with re-organization and personnel, and to modify regulations and rules, and making them more efficient. The modification will also effect working methods and coordination, and division of duties and management.

Attending the closing ceremony were ministers, chiefs of commercial services from the provinces, Vientiane Prefecture, and the special zone, and representatives of enterprises and business units, totalling over 100 participants.

Philippines

Inter-Agency Group Formed To Counter Terrorism

BK1804105795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, April 18 (AFP)—A pool of representatives from different government agencies has been created to monitor suspected terrorists who may be planning attacks in the Philippines, an official said here Tuesday.

A high-ranking Immigration Bureau official who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Crisis Management Organization (CMO) would work to predict and prevent possible terrorist attacks and prepare for such incidents as well.

The body includes members from security-related agencies like the military, the national police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the immigration bureau, as well as representatives from the departments of interior, social welfare and justice.

Philippine Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan, who will head the CMO, left for Pakistan on Sunday to consult with the government there on joint efforts to combat international terrorism.

The body was created after local Moslem fundamentalists raided a town in the southern Philippines last month, leaving about 50 people dead and burning the town's commercial district to the ground.

The raiders, identified as members of the Abu Sayyaf group, are believed to be linked to foreign Islamic terrorists including Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, suspected mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Yusuf, who was arrested in Pakistan and extradited to the United States on February 7, is believed to have been in this country earlier. He has also been charged with the bombing of a Philippine Airlines flight in December, which killed a Japanese man.

He is also suspected of leading a group of other Islamic terrorists who planned to assassinate Pope John Paul II during his January visit to this country and bomb the Israeli and US embassies here.

Police Assign 'New Spies'

BK1804062695 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Philippine National Police will assign new spies to fight the worsening terrorism in the country. According to National Police Director for Metro Manila (Jewel Canson), the government intelligence agencies have already agreed to assign community leaders and members of nongovernment organizations as

police assets. In a meeting held at Camp Crame, (Cannon) also said that they could help by reporting suspicious newcomers in their respective areas.

Official Confirms Terrorist Threat to Manila

BK1804090395 Quezon City DZBB Radyo Bisig Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manila authorities remain alert to terrorist threats of violence in Metro Manila. This was stated by Alexander Aguirre, Department of Interior and Local Government undersecretary, after he confirmed the threat. Aguirre said the threat may be retaliation for military offensives against the Abu Sayyaf.

Military Denies 'Terrorists' Arrive in Zamboanga

BK1704110795 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Southern Command Chief Major General Edgardo Batenga today denied that a group of terrorists arrived in Zamboanga City. It was reported earlier that armed men aboard four small boats arrived in Zamboanga. Nevertheless, Regional Command Director Colonel Orville Gabuna said the Marines who came from Sulu were just mistakenly identified as Abu Sayyaf members. Gabuna explained that all roads leading to Zamboanga are now closely guarded by the military.

Thailand

U.S. Firm Wins Airport Terminal Design Bid

BK1804063095 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Darani Kothandapani and Amonrat Mahithirat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Murphy/Jahn-Tams has won the bid to design the terminal of Bangkok's second international airport at Nong Ngu Hao. It proposed a total lump-sum fee of 792 million baht, against a quotation of 836 million baht submitted by Aeroports de Paris [ADP], the other contender.

"We won eventually and we will produce a well-designed airport," said a jubilant Songkhram Sombun, project director for ACT Consultants, a part of the Murphy/Jahn-Tams consortium.

"We wanted to take the project for the credit of the company, in order to promote it internationally," Mr Songkhram explained, adding that his firm was interested in bidding for airport projects in Indochina and had been following such projects in Vietnam and Cambodia for the purpose of bidding. The two contenders submitted their bids to the Airports Authority of Thailand yesterday, and the bids were opened immediately in the presence of representatives of the two contenders, who went to submit the bids.

Those present at the opening of the bids included ACM [Air Chief Marshal] M.R. Siriphong Thongyai, chairman of the AAT [Airport Authority of Thailand], Sisuk Chantharangsu, chairman of the AAT's negotiating subcommittee, other members of the AAT board and the two contenders' representatives.

ACM M.R. Siriphong said he believed that the prices offered by the consortium would not affect the quality of its work as the terms had stated clearly the quality that the contractor must meet. He said the AAT would give cooperation to the consortium in implementing and completing the project within the timeframe. He expected that the contract could be signed by the end of June.

Sources present at the meeting commented that there was a feeling among both parties that the process this time had been clear and fair, thereby bringing to an end this stage of the airport project.

The cost of designing the terminal, 792 million baht, is only a small percentage of the total cost of construction of the terminal which is an estimated 27,000 million baht but it has been steeped in controversy and conflict.

The proposal of Murphy/Jahn-Tams is higher than the budget of 610 million baht set by the National Economic and Social Development Board for the purpose. But this is not expected to create a problem as the budget for the purpose has already been enhanced to around 850 million baht, according to Mr Songkhram. He explained that Murphy/Jahn, the US part of the consortium, had wanted to withdraw from the race, due to the low prices proposed by the other members of the consortium.

"We had to send our managing director to convince them to stay on," he added. But this seems to have involved a revision of the profit-sharing proportion among the members of the consortium, the Thai side having indicated willingness to sacrifice a certain percentage for the sake of swinging the deal.

Murphy/Jahn-Tams, which was invited for negotiations with the AAT board in mid-January, brought down its price to 997 million baht, but a deal was not struck as the AAT suddenly realised that it had to work within a budget of 640 million baht.

When the consortium indicated its inability to adhere to its technical proposal at this price, ADP was called in for negotiations. When it turned down the AAT's proposed price, the present procedure of opting for the contender with the lowest lump-sum fee without any escalation clauses was adopted.

The Murphy/Jahn-Tams consortium will meet the AAT board on Friday to discuss the terms of the contract. The design of the terminal will be completed within 27 months, said Mr Songkhram who stated that the deal should have been struck in September.

While the selected consortium will, in addition to designing the terminal, get involved in work supervision

specification of the materials to be used, and will set the terms of the tender packages the AAT will handle the procedure and awarding of the work at each stage.

"The foundation package will be completed within 10 months. Thereafter, during construction, the superstructure will be designed simultaneously. The airport will be ready by 2000 as scheduled," maintained Mr Songkhram.

Meanwhile, Wanchai Wimuktanon, managing director of ACT Consultants, one contractor in the consortium, said the consortium was expected to complete the work within the contracted period, but it would not be finished ahead of the time. He said that within 14 months of the contract being signed, piling work could start.

Singapore-Philippines Ties May Affect ASEAN

*BK1804072595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Apr 95 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The resignation of Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo may cause the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to stumble, Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong said yesterday. But it is not expected to have any impact on bilateral ties between Thailand and the Philippines, said the minister.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos yesterday accepted the resignation of Mr Romulo who has been under fire over the execution of Filipina maid Mrs Flor Contemplacion in Singapore on March 17.

"Should the conflict between the Philippines and Singapore escalate into confrontation and termination of diplomatic relations, ASEAN might stumble," Dr Krasae said.

He said he believed officials of both countries have been consulting closely. At the same time, some ASEAN countries have tried to mediate to create better understanding between the two ASEAN neighbours and help work out a solution, said the Minister.

"(We) must find a solution that saves both sides from losing face," he said.

Navy Chief Seeks Chuan's Support for Submarines

*BK1804063195 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Apr 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Royal Thai Navy Commander Adm [Admiral] Prachet Siridet yesterday gave his personal explanation to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai over the navy's plan to purchase two medium size diesel-powered attack-class submarines within the next fiscal year. The 20-minute meeting was seen by military observers as a last-ditch attempt by the navy to clarify the issue with the premier and gain his support for the acquisition plan.

Adm Prachet, however, said the premier did not say if he agreed with the navy's acquisition plan, adding that Mr

Chuan had told him to work out all the details about the purchase in the navy's 1996 budget plan. The navy earlier asked for a seven-year expenditure plan to purchase two submarines at an estimated cost of about 2,500-3,000 million baht annually or a total of about 17 billion baht. However, the Budget Bureau had earlier sent the navy's acquisition plan back, saying that the proposed expenditure plan had exceeded the financial ceiling given annually to the navy for its expense or arms purchasing.

One security source said the navy has again proposed its acquisition plan to the Defence Ministry by readjusting its expenditure figure in which it would cost the navy about 14-15 billion baht for two attack submarines.

Adm Prachet, however, reportedly hoped the navy might be able to make the government change its mind as the 1996 draft budget bill has yet to be finalised and any adjustment on national spending still can be made.

It is expected that the Cabinet would make its final decision on the issue at the meeting next Tuesday.

"Under the new proposed plan, the navy has to spent about 2,000 million baht annually which would cause no financial problem for the navy in purchasing the submarines," said one security source who claimed that the navy's acquisition project was in accordance with the national strategy plan and the navy's project has already got support from the National Security Council.

The navy has agreed to shelve several insignificant projects so that it could spend the money instead to procure the attack-class submarines which would be used to protect the country's sea lanes and its undersea resources in the Gulf of Thailand.

Patrols in South Increased To Fight Separatism

*BK1804063395 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Apr 95 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yala—The authorities have stepped up patrols in this southern province's four districts which are expected to be new targets of a splinter separatist group which burned old tyres on many bridges and roads in three provinces last week.

Patrol forces are operating round the clock along several routes in Yaha and Bannang Sata districts and Kabang and Kong Penang sub-districts after the separatists set fire to old tyres at 10 points in Muang and Yaha districts on April 13.

The separatists, who claimed they were members of Tantra Jihad Islam (TJI), also burned old car tyres at 12 points on different roads in Narathiwat and another one on Yala-Pattani Highway in Pattani last week.

Provincial administrations of the three provinces had to send urgent reports on the incident to Interior Minister Sanan Kachonprasat who would raise them for discussion at today's Cabinet meeting. However, Police Chief Gen Phot Bunyachinda said yesterday that groups of

teen-agers not separatists, were responsible for the burning of old tyres on 14 bridges and roads in southern provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat on Thursday.

He said the suspects could be identified by local police only after the investigation was completed and he had ordered Special Branch and local police to closely monitor the scenes. Police would increase night patrols, Gen Phot said.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Sanan Kachonprasat was told yesterday that a new separatist movement, known as Tantra Jihad Islam, would step up military activities in the three southernmost Muslim-dominated provinces, a source said yesterday. The source said Interior Minister Maj-Gen Sanan was briefed through a ministry intelligence report which claimed that last week's burning of old tyres on 20 roads and bridges in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces was carried out by Tantra Jihad Islam terrorists.

Terrorists spray-painted three English letters TJI on several roads—the acronym of their organization founded recently by several disgruntled members of the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN).

Vietnam

Further on Party Chief's Visit to ROK, Japan

Tours Industrial Facilities 15 Apr

BK1604144195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Report by Dao Nguyen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends, today Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him toured Koje Island and a ship-building facility owned by the Daewoo conglomerate. President Kim Yong-sam's personal helicopter, which carried Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi aboard, landed at Mokpo Airport, which also serves as the industrial center of the whole island. Koje Island has a population of 150,000 and is President Kim Yong-sam's birthplace. It used to be a deserted island. In 1976, the Daewoo conglomerate opened a ship-building facility on the island and made an important difference to local socioeconomic life. A total of 60,000 people work for different plants owned by Daewoo. Each year, the conglomerate turns out 24 ships with the largest of them having a maximum tonnage of 300,000. Daewoo's dry dock on the island is among the world's largest because it can accommodate up to six ships at the same time. According to the president of the Daewoo conglomerate, the ship-building plants are concentrating on filling the orders for container ships and oil tankers of many countries. Daewoo also opened many branches in other parts of the world.

After touring the dry dock, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi visited Koje Elementary School. He presented

gifts to the school management and chatted with students and teachers. He reminded the students of the need to perform well in school and listen to their parents and teachers so that in the future, they will become good citizens and contribute to the building of the ROK, including Koje Island.

After he left Koje Island, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi toured the Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Company [KHICC] based in the city of Changwon, which is one of the ROK's largest industrial complexes. On this occasion, the presidents and vice presidents of KHICC and the Changwon industrial complex exchanged views with Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and took him on a tour of the various facilities where nuclear reactors for nuclear-powered plants and turbines of all types for thermoelectric and hydroelectric power plants are made. Some of those reactors and turbines can reach a capacity of up to 1 million kilowatts. The annual turnover of the Changwon heavy industrial company stands at only 2.5-3 billion. Nonetheless, the company produces machine tools for many technological, industrial, and economic sectors. Therefore, the company plays a very important role. His Excellency Yi So-kang, president of KHICC, movingly said: General Secretary Do Muoi's visit was a great honor and a source of supplemental strength for our company to broaden cooperation with Vietnam, including the power plant in Ba Ria-Vung Tau, the Pha Lai hydroelectric power plant in the north, the Phu My power plant in Binh Dinh, the Go Dau power plant in Tay Ninh, the Quang Ninh cement plant, a joint venture with Haiphong, and a number of other projects in Vietnam.

Speaking on this occasion, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi pointed out that the economic results of the ROK's major heavy industry conglomerates like Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, and LG are vivid lessons for Vietnam to learn in order to carry out its national industrialization and modernization program. General Secretary Do Muoi said emphatically:

[Begin Do Muoi recording] I believe that Vietnam and the ROK have their own potential and needs. It is our hope that if the two countries cooperate and supplement each other, Vietnam will be able to speed up its pace of development. [end recording]

Dear friends, at a meeting with General Secretary Do Muoi arranged by KHICC and the Changwon industrial complex, many South Korean industrialists expressed their belief in Vietnam's ability to achieve a high economic growth rate at an early date and concurred with many of General Secretary Do Muoi's views.

In response to our question following a meeting with General Secretary Do Muoi, an official in charge of commercial affairs of KHICC, said:

I concur with many of His Excellency General Secretary Do Muoi's views. In my opinion, Vietnam-ROK cooperation, which started two years ago, has developed well

and will become even better in the future. The reason is because Vietnam and the ROK share many similarities. It is my belief that, as His Excellency General Secretary Do Muoi already said, bilateral cooperation will continue to develop well.

Dear friends, this afternoon, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi visited Kyongsang Province along the ROK's southeastern coast. The province is home to the Posco steel conglomerate, which is one of the ROK's largest conglomerates and accounts for an annual production output of 22 out of 30 million tonnes of steel for the ROK. Posco's president hosted a reception in honor of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him.

Visits ROK Oil Refinery 16 Apr

BK1804043495 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Report by Dao Nguyen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends: Today, 16 April, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him visited an oil refinery belonging to the LG economic conglomerate, the new name of the Goldstar economic conglomerate based on Yochon Peninsula in South Cholla Province along the southwestern coast of the ROK. This is the ROK's largest oil refinery, built in 1976 to meet the expansion needs of chemical plants and plastic household appliance manufacturing plants.

Mr. Ku Pon-mu, president of the conglomerate, expressed his pleasure at welcoming Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and briefed him on the conglomerate's birth and growth. The Honam plant and a number of other plants in this peninsular region alone currently produce an annual output of 18 million tonnes of refined oil. In the near future, the conglomerate may increase its oil refinery output to 32 million tonnes and build a self-contained oil refinery and finished product processing system. Thirty-five percent of the conglomerate's production output is for domestic consumption.

According to Mr. Ku Pon-mu, the LG conglomerate has carried out oil refinery joint ventures with the Vietnam Oil and Gas Company and the Vietso Oil and Gas Joint Enterprise. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi expressed his hope that with its experience, the LG conglomerate will make a positive contribution to the technological and economic development of Vietnam's oil and gas sector on the basis of mutual benefit.

This afternoon, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi visited Cheju Province on the last leg of his ROK visit. Cheju Province is the ROK's biggest island, located off the southwestern coast with an area of nearly 293 square km and a population of nearly 60,000. In recent years, the ROK Government has broadened the island's economy while at the same time promoting its tourist industry. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi visited

the (Paradit) Golf Course in Chungmu. This 18-hole golf course was inaugurated yesterday.

Meets With Japanese Prime Minister

BK1804134095 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Report by Dao Nguyen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear friends: This morning the official reception ceremony for General Secretary Do Muoi was held solemnly at the government guest house. In attendance were all cabinet members; representatives of political parties and the Diet; a large number of Vietnamese nationals living in Tokyo and elsewhere; and representatives of diplomatic missions in Tokyo.

After the inspection of the honor guards, Japanese Prime Minister Murayama introduced the guests to Do Muoi. Vietnamese and Japanese flags were flying.

After the ceremony Do Muoi visited the Tokyo Traffic Control Center. [passage omitted on introduction to Tokyo traffic system]

Afterward, Do Muoi visited City Hall, located in Shinjuku in central Tokyo. [passage omitted on features of the building]

In the afternoon Do Muoi met with Japanese Prime Minister Murayama. On the Vietnamese side were Comrades Nguyen Manh Cam, Hong Ha, Tran Duc Luong, Vu Dinh Cu, Do Quoc Sam, Le Van Triet, Ha Nghiep, and the Vietnamese ambassador to Japan. At the meeting the two sides discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and international issues of common concern.

Do Muoi and Murayama then witnessed the signing ceremony for the agreement through which Japan will lend Vietnam 58 billion yen or \$500 million in Overseas Development Aid, and the agreement on assistance with teaching materials.

Do Muoi also received International Trade and Industry Minister Hashimoto and other Japanese guests who paid him a courtesy visit. [passage omitted on reports by Japanese media on visit]

Japan Ambassador Interviewed on Do Muoi Visit

BK1804140395 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Interview with Kazuo Ogura, Japanese ambassador to Vietnam, by an unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency Kazuo Ogura, would you please elaborate the significance of General Secretary Do Muoi's visit to Japan?

[Ogura] First of all, I would like to assert that this is a visit of great significance during which Vietnam and Japan will hold political talks. I asserted this because, first, Vietnam is at present opening its door and is trying to assimilate into the international community. This is very important for Japan because it helps our country to understand more about Vietnam, thereby strengthening relations between the two countries while advancing further to participate in international activities for mutual interests. This will encourage Japan to do its best to provide more assistance to Vietnam to help it quickly assimilate into the international community. Second, the visit is aimed at expanding economic relations between the two countries. This can be seen by the participation of a large number of businessmen in the Vietnamese delegation. Third, we hope that bilateral cultural relations will be strengthened through this visit. This is because Vietnam and Japan share many similarities and the visit will accelerate the cultural ties between the two peoples.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, to what extent do the Japanese people understand the renovation in Vietnam?

[Ogura] I think that, basically, renovation is more or less a kind of reform, that is the shifting into a new era—the era of opening the door for markets, for assimilating into the international community, for attracting foreign investment, and for trading with other countries. As a result, I understand that renovation is opening the door and through which more cooperation can be achieved. Considering the other angles, renovation will create more and diversified opportunities through which you can select various cooperation partners.

[Correspondent] The Vietnam-Japan relations in the recent past have been remarkably and effectively strengthened. Japan has become the largest trade partner of Vietnam. Can you elaborate the prospects and development of Japan-Vietnam relations in the days ahead in the framework of Japan's development policy?

[Ogura] It can be said that Japan-Vietnam relations have undergone four stages. The first one is the observing and studying stage; second is the studying and acting stage; third is the taking off period; and the last one is the flying stage. Our relations have passed the second stage and are about to take off. As a result, I think that the Japan-Vietnam relations will be gradually strengthened and that through this visit, the bilateral economic relations will be enhanced. In the days ahead, our cooperation will be expanded, especially in the economic and trade domains. We will help Vietnam build infrastructure projects, improve socioeconomic and other development programs, strengthen the legal system, resolve social issues, and cooperate in industrial and scientific-technological investment domains. I think that Japanese businessmen will invest more in Vietnam and will import more Vietnamese products. We will also pay attention to expanding cooperation in the cultural domain. This is because, as I have already mentioned, Vietnam and Japan share many similarities. As a result,

cooperation in this field will help us better understand each other, thereby helping to quickly accelerate cooperation in other domains.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Your Excellency.

Prime Minister Receives PRC Army Delegation

*BK1804053295 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT
17 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon Lieutenant General Zhang Wannian, member of the Central Military Committee and chief of the General Staff of the People's Army of China and other Chinese high-ranking officers now on a visit to Vietnam.

Deputy Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Dao Dinh Luyen and Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Qing were present at the reception.

Speaking to his guests, Prime Minister Kiet described their Vietnam visit as a fine manifestation of the friendship between the two countries. He spoke highly of the achievements recorded by the Chinese people in their national construction, and expressed his wish for further development and consolidation of the bilateral relations.

Lt. Gen. Zhang Wannian informed the Vietnamese leader of the results of his visit and expressed his pleasure at the achievements of the Vietnamese people in their renovation process under the leadership of the Communist Party.

The same day, Lt. Gen. Zhang Wannian and his party were received by Defence Minister General Doan Khue.

Earlier, in the morning a high-ranking military delegation led by Lt. Gen. Dao Dinh Luyen held talks with the Chinese delegation.

NHAN DAN Welcomes Visit by Australia's Hayden

*BK1804085695 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT
18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—Australian Governor-General Bill Hayden's visit to Vietnam is an important contribution to bringing the Vietnam-Australia relations to a new stage of development, the national daily NHAN DAN says in an editorial welcoming the five-day visit which began today.

The papers continues by saying that Vietnam and Australia, though far apart in terms of geography, share many similarities. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1973. In recent years, with the spirit of closing the past and looking forward to the future, leaders and peoples of the two countries have together fostered and developed friendly and cooperative relations. Agreements on economic-commercial cooperation have been carried out well and the committee for bilateral economic cooperation and the trade and business council have operated effectively,

thus helping two-way trade turnover increase from USD 32 million in 1990 to USD 390 million in 1994. By the end of 1994, Australia was ranked sixth among investor nations in Vietnam with 40 projects capitalized at USD 649 million, Australia's presence is primarily in two fields, oil and gas development and telecommunications, Australia's projects on irrigation works, safe water supply, and personnel training have been successfully carried out. Moreover, Australia has positively helped Vietnam establish relations with international monetary and financial organizations.

The paper wishes Governor General Bill Hayden's visit a success, and shares with the Australian people and the governor-general the confidence that the Vietnam-Australia friendship and cooperation will steadily develop in the interest of the two peoples, for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and the world as whole.

Vo Van Kiet Visits District in Nghe An Province

BK1804024495 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Apr 95

[Report by Dinh Khai]

[FBIS Summary] Dear friends: despite some bad weather, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recently visited the district of Ky Son, Nghe An Province. In his working session with leading cadres of Ky Son, the prime minister urged them to strive to preserve the forests. He asked them to resolutely stop indiscriminate exploitation of the forests, which will have long-term effects on the people's daily life and the national environment.

"A problem that is yet to be resolved in Ky Son is the elimination of poppy planting. The district has been renowned for being the largest area for poppy cultivation in the country. Of the total 3,500 hectares of poppy, only 1,000 hectares have been eliminated. As a result, drug addiction and trafficking are still the issues of prime concern. Ky Son and Nghe An Provinces have launched a movement to urge the people to plant other crops to replace poppy. However, difficulties are continuing, especially in the efforts to stabilize the people's daily life pending the new crops. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet asked Ky Son District and Nghe An Province to closely coordinate with the agencies concerned at the central level to find a general solution to resolve the socioeconomic problems of the district."

Speaking to hundreds of people gathered at Ky Son District's stadium, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet solicitously conveyed the party and government's kind regards to the local people and combatants of the armed forces on duty in the district. The prime minister said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] "The party and government clearly understand the difficulties faced by Ky Son District. We will do our best to help the district resolve its problems. I urge our countrymen in the district to strive to satisfactorily carry out the settlement of

nomads, stabilize production, and improve the people's daily life for their immediate and long-term interests. I urge you to do your best to preserve the forests—the most precious natural resource of our country and of Ky Son. Efforts must be made to plant more forests, to stop forest destruction caused by the slash-and-burn cultivation method, and to preserve forest trees—the most valuable natural resource of Ky Son. I urge the district party organization and people to preserve, care for, and develop the forests here so as to resolve various issues and improve the local people's daily life. Cadres of the province and district must strive to help the people limit and eventually stop deforestation caused by the slash-and-burn cultivation while gradually stabilizing their daily life and fighting poverty. As the poppy growing area in Ky Son is still large, the district cadres and people must find a way to change the people's habit of planting poppy—a plant that has bad consequences for local people and others in various regions of our nation. The government, the province, and district will take more positive measures, together with the local people, to resolve the pressing issues and improve the situation here while making greater efforts to improve the national defense and security tasks. On behalf of the party and government, I would like to highly commend the armed forces and local people for their efforts in firmly maintaining security. It is also necessary to pay more attention to the public health service while improving education for our children." [end recording]

Dear friends, in his third day in Nghe An Province, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held working session with the leading cadres here. He noted the encouraging achievements recorded by Nghe An during the past years in the socioeconomic domain. He urged Nghe An to formulate concrete plans to protect and develop forests, ensure grain production output, improve the methods of cultivation, and increase the output of construction materials. He also took note of the province's socioeconomic problems and urged the local cadres and people to satisfactorily carry out the government policy on industrialization and modernization, thereby developing the hometown of esteemed beloved Uncle Ho a step further.

Assembly Session's 15 Apr Proceedings Reported

BK1504152395 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Statement of the Office of the National Assembly issued in Hanoi on 15 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy.

Prior to their debate designed to pass the law on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of the Law on Vietnam Civil Aviation, the National Assembly heard Cabinet Minister Bui Danh Luu, on behalf of the Law-Drafting Committee under the

National Assembly's Legal Committee and the Meeting Secretariat, present a report on the views of National Assembly deputies as well as on a plan to rectify the draft law on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of the Law on Vietnam Civil Aviation.

The National Assembly passed the Law on Amendment of and Supplement to a Number of Articles of the Law on Vietnam Civil Aviation with 313 out of 321 votes in favor.

Prior to embarking on the afternoon session, the deputies heard the chairman of the Legal Committee, Ha Manh Tri, read an investigative report on the Draft Law on the Amendment of and Supplement to a Number of Articles of the Law on the Organization of the People's Court. They also exchanged their views during group discussions on the Draft Law on the Amendment of and Supplement to a Number of Articles of the Law on the Organization of the People's Court. The deputies gave their views on issues on which differing views still existed, such as the powers of the People's Courts at all levels to try various civil lawsuits, the participation by the People's Organ of Control in legal proceedings, and the resolution of complaints about administrative decisions and actions that have been made before the Law on the Amendment of and Supplement to a Number of Articles in the Law on the Organization of the People's Court comes into effect.

The National Assembly will continue to work at the conference hall on Monday, 17 April 1995.

Communique No. 16 Issued

BK1804061795 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Apr 95

["Communique No. 16" issued by the National Assembly Office in Hanoi on 17 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the National Assembly held a plenary session under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu to discuss the draft bill amending and supplementing some articles of the Law on the Organization of the People's Courts. A total of 16 deputies expressed their ideas, focusing on issues related to the power of the administrative courts in trying lawsuits brought by citizens, state agencies, and social and economic organizations; the delegation of authority to various court levels; measures to ensure quick trials by administrative courts in accordance with the law; the role of the People's Organ of Control in reviewing administrative lawsuits; and enforcement of the revised Law on the Organization of the People's Courts.

National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh chaired the afternoon session. The National Assembly heard the following clarifications:

1. A clarification by the National Assembly Standing Committee—National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu, on behalf of the Standing Committee, clarified some issues related to the regulation on the rights and obligations of domestic organizations to which the state allocated or leased land. After hearing this clarification, deputies Le Minh Chau from Ho Chi Minh City and Nguyen Ngoc Hai from Haiphong suggested that a document on the clarification be circulated widely among the people.

2. A clarification by the government—Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry, clarified some issues related to the enforcement of the Law on Land; measures to promote the production, management, processing, and distribution of grain; and measures to eradicate yellow snails. Dang Huu, minister of science, technology, and the environment, presented more details on the spread of yellow snails. Tran Xuan Gia, deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission, clarified some issues related to funds for capital construction and for the development of mountain regions, Project No. 327, and other projects. After hearing the cabinet members' clarifications, a total of 14 deputies raised issues that should be clarified more clearly. The cabinet members concerned then answered questions raised by these deputies.

Tomorrow, 18 April, the National Assembly will continue its work in the Conference Hall.

Military Attaches of Various Countries Visit

BK1504162395 Hanoi VNA in English 1227 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—Military attaches of different countries in Vietnam have made tour of Ho Chi Minh and several provinces in the Mekong River delta.

The tour was arranged by the Ministry of National Defence on the occasion of the 20th anniversary on the liberation of south Vietnam (April 30, 1975).

During the tour, they were received by the commanders of military zone no 7 and no 9 and met with army units stationed in the localities.

They expressed pleasure at seeing Vietnam's great achievements in overcoming aftermaths of the war and in the renovation process. They also expressed their friendship and solidarity with the Vietnamese people, thus contributing to the maintenance of peace, stability and development.

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